National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2021



Mount Locust

Natchez Trace Parkway

[Internal Review/Park Review/SHPO Review]

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Chapter 1: General

Region

Southeast

Park Alpha Code

NATR

Park Org Code

5570

Resource Type

Cultural Landscape

Resource Classification

Cultural Landscape

Inventory Status

Complete

Resource ID

550178

Resource Name

Mount Locust

Parent Landscape

N/A

Parent Resource ID

N/A

State

MS

Park Name

Natchez Trace Parkway

Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archaeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)
The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant landscapes in which NPS has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or, Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or, Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes vary from historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes to historic ethnographic landscapes, but may also fit within more than one type. Those eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state or local level, as well as integrity or authenticity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish…a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places…of properties…*

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)…Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA…No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior…

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c) each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying…historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Councill and the Secretary…

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories…about cultural resources in units of the national park system…Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,…and historic sites…

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Landscape Description

Mount Locust is a historic vernacular landscape located within the right-of-way of the Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR), significant under Criterion A. The National Park Service (NPS) acquired Mount Locust as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR) right-of-way in 1937. Mount Locust is the only surviving inn of the more than fifty that stood along the Natchez Trace from the late 1700s through the mid-1820s. Mount Locust is also one of the oldest surviving structures in the state of Mississippi and predates many of the antebellum properties in nearby Natchez.

The tract of land on which Mount Locust stands is half of a British land grant of 650 arpents made to Thomas Harmon in 1779. At some point prior to 1781, the tract was transferred to John Blommart, who led an unsuccessful attempt to take Natchez from Spanish control in 1781. He was jailed and all his property confiscated. Silas Crane acquired the Blommart tract from the Spanish government in 1782. In 1784, half of the Blommart tract was acquired by William Ferguson. The first survey, which occurred in 1785, included the notation "Mr. Wm Ferguson's dwelling house."

The house may have been built prior to 1781 by John Blommart or John Harmon in compliance with the 1779 land grant. One condition on which the West Florida government granted land in the Natchez District was that the grantee agreed to work at least three acres of each fifty "accounted plantable," or erect "one good Dwelling House to contain at least twenty feet in length, sixteen feet in Breadth." However, since the 1781 confiscation document described the tract as having "no settlement," it seems likely that the house was built by William Ferguson between 1782-1785. A detailed architectural evaluation of the house in 1954 revealed that certain additions had been made to the original structure very early—possibly prior to 1800—and that it had been significantly changed and enlarged around 1820 and again during the 1840s.

Family tradition maintains that the house was used as an inn or stand during the period when the Natchez Trace was heavily traveled by flatboat crews returning north after bringing goods down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Traffic along the Natchez Trace increased dramatically after 1798, when the Mississippi Territory was organized. Beginning in the 1820s,

the Old Trace ceased to be the main route between Natchez, Nashville, and the East. As new roads were cleared, and especially after the Jefferson County seat was moved to Fayette in 1825, that part of the Old Trace near Mount Locust became merely another road from Natchez to Jackson.

Mount Locust was operated as a typical frontier plantation, using enslaved labor, until after the Civil War. The plantation was largely dependent on the cash crop cotton. The property experienced a slow decline after the Civil War. Mount Locust was occupied by the Ferguson-Chamberlain family until its acquisition in 1937 as part of section 3-W of the Natchez Trace Parkway. After a decision to return the house to its circa 1820 configuration, a restoration program began in 1955 and was completed in 1956. Site development and further work on the house occurred from 1957 to 1960 during the Mission 66 era.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Mount Locust is significant at national and statewide levels under CRITERION A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Transportation as one of the oldest extant buildings in the state of Mississippi and the only surviving inn of the more than 50 that stood along the Natchez Trace, the only improved and direct road between the Cumberland District in Tennessee and the Lower South, from the late 1700s through the mid-1820s. The period of significance for these areas is 1779, the year of the British land grant of the property on which Mount Locust stands, through 1820, the peak of Natchez Trace traffic. It is also significant at national and statewide levels under CRITERION A in the areas of Other: Commemoration and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway, which memorialized the historic Natchez Trace, for the restoration of the house to its 1820 appearance when the travel along trace was at its peak, and for the development of a National Park unit through the Mission 66 program. The period of significance for these areas is 1937, the year the NPS acquired Mount Locust as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway right-of-way, through 1960, by which time house restoration and site development related to visitors' services and administration during the Mission 66 era had been largely completed. to its 1820 appearance and the visitors' services buildings had been constructed.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The Mount Locust landscape today most closely approximates the character present by the end of the second identified period of significance—1960—as opposed to the antebellum period. By 1960, the house had been restored to its c.1820 appearance and the NPS had constructed a Visitor Contact Station, administration and maintenance buildings, and pedestrian walkways. They additionally implemented a 1958 planting plan influenced by observations by longtime resident Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain. Changes have continued to be made to the property since 1960, including the reroofing of some of the NPS buildings, the enclosures of portions of those buildings, the retrofitting of trails to become ADA accessible, and replaced windows and roof following Hurricane Katrina.

Several elements associated with the Mount Locust landscape during the antebellum period are missing today and little is known about their historic character. These elements include historic outbuildings and the fields and gardens that supported the landscape. The location of many outbuildings has been identified through archaeology, but some, including the dwellings of the enslaved workers have not been found.

Otherwise, many of the historic qualities and characteristics of the historic landscape remain present, including the Mount Locust dwelling house, its central location in the landscape, some of the historic brick walkways around the house, the Old Natchez Trace and the house's relationship to it, specimen trees, visitor and administration buildings from the late 1950s, and two cemeteries.

The dwelling house is the centerpiece of the Mount Locust cultural landscape. It is the only surviving building of the property known as Mount Locust, which at one time operated both as a small plantation and as an inn for travelers along the Natchez Trace. The house has been restored to a period of c. 1820, which corresponds with the height of travel along the historic Natchez Trace. The integrity of the house remains high for location, design, materials, feeling, and association.

Integrity of location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association remains high for the site overall. Even with the loss of the spatial relationships of the house and the outbuildings, Mount Locust has not lost its sense of time and place along the historic Natchez Trace and overall possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations.

Landscape Hierarchy Description

Mount Locust is classified as a cultural landscape in the CRIS database.

Recent Condition

N/A

Subsite/Child components

N/A

Landscape Type

Historic Vernacular Landscape

Cover Page Graphic

See Cover Page.

Site Plan(s)

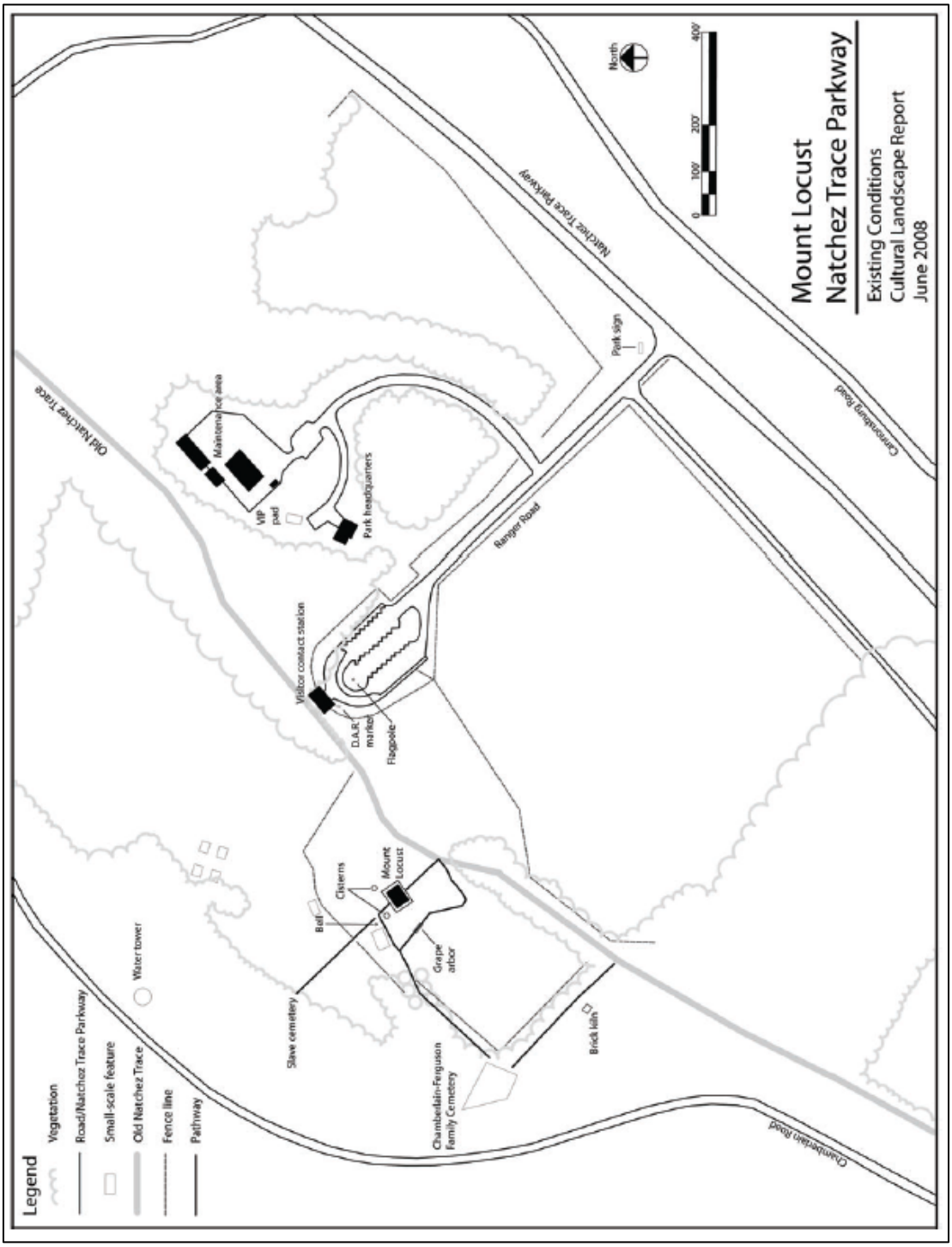


Fig 1. Existing Conditions Site Map

Hierarchy Description Graphic

N/A

Other Names

Seq. No.	Name	Type
1	Mr. Wm. Ferguson's dwelling house	Historic
2	Mound Plantation	Historic
3	Mrs. Ferguson's	Historic
4	Waterloo	Historic
5	Mount Locust	Historic and Current

Chapter 2: Concurrence Status

Park Superintendent Concurrence Date

07/13/2022

Park Superintendent Concurrence

No

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

No information has been input into CLAIMS. The park contact is Sara Amy Leach.

Concurrence Graphics

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2 (SERO-CRD)

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway

From: Acting Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Interior KLH

Subject: Region 2 Cultural Landscape Inventory for Mount

We are pleased to submit the Mount Locust Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) record for your review and signature. A digital copy of the inventory is located at: https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2293518. The CLI database is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to a previously-listed NR historic property. Once an independent online database, the CLI is now part of the multidisciplinary NPS Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS). Upon signature and certification, the completed CLI record for Mount Locust will be available online via IRMA and CRIS at: https://irma.nps.gov and https://apps.cr.nps.gov/CRIS/. The Mount Locust CLI was prepared by Cultural Landscapes Research Associate, Olivia Head, through a CESU Agreement with the University of Georgia. Ms. Head used data from the Mount Locust Cultural Landscape Report (Susan Hitchcock, 2009) as a base to create the inventory.

In order for the CLI to be certified in CRIS, the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) needs to concur on the findings of the inventory, including the list of contributing and noncontributing landscape features. David Hasty, CLI Coordinator for the Region, will send a request to the Mississippi SHPO for concurrence on the CLI.

In addition to SHPO concurrence, park superintendent signature is also needed to certify a CLI record. We request that you approve the CLI using the attached form. Based on the findings of the CLI, the cultural landscape is in *Good* condition. If you have any questions, please contact David Hasty, IR2 CLI Coordinator. If the findings of the CLI are agreed upon, please sign the attached approval form and return it to our office via e-mail to David Hasty at david_hasty@nps.gov.

Attachment

Interior Region 2 • South Atlantic–Gulf
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi
North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands

Superintendent Signature Page

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – May 2022

Park Information

Park: Natchez Trace Parkway
State: Mississippi **County:** Jefferson

Cultural Landscape Information

Inventory Name	CRIS CLI ID #	Condition
Mount Locust	550178	Good

Management Category: Should Be Preserved and Maintained

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Natchez Trace Parkway concurs with the findings of the CLI for the Mount Locust property, including the components of Condition and Management Category.

Concur X **Not Concur** ____

Douglass Neyhus 7/13/2022
Superintendent **Date**

Good: Indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is re-quired to maintain its current condition.

Fair: Indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: Indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Superintendent Signature Page

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1.A.2 (SERO-CRD)

17 May 2022

Barry White
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Subject: MS-SHPO review of and concurrence with the findings of Mount Locust Cultural Landscape Inventory at Natchez Trace Parkway

Dear Mr. White:

The Regional Office of Interior Region 2 (IR2) respectfully requests your review and concurrence on the findings of the Mount Locust Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), in accordance with the regulations set forth in Section 110(a)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended (NHPA). Mount Locust is located along the Natchez Parkway in Jefferson County, Mississippi. A digital copy of the inventory is available at https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2293518. The Mount Locust CLI was prepared by Cultural Landscapes Research Associate, Olivia Head, through an Agreement with the University of Georgia. Ms. Head used data from the Mount Locust Cultural Landscape Report (Susan Hitchcock, 2009) as a base to create the inventory.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service guidance requires review and concurrence on CLI findings from the relevant State Historic Preservation Office. The sections most germane to SHPO review are the National Register and the Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity chapters. The National Register chapter provides information on the potential significance of this property. The Analysis and Evaluation chapter identifies relevant landscape characteristics with associated landscape features, describing their evolution over time, and assessing integrity of present-day conditions. Some landscape features, such as buildings and structures, small scale features, and circulation, could be considered as countable resources for a National Register nomination. Other features, such as views and vistas, would enhance the description of a district or site, particularly in terms of setting, feeling, and association.

Mount Locust is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) has not been made for Mount Locust or portions of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi. Portions of the Old Natchez Trace in Mississippi are listed in the National Register, although none of these portions is located in close proximity to Mount Locust. Based on the findings of this CLI, Mount Locust is significant at national and statewide levels under CRITERION A in the areas of

CLI SHPO Memo Page 1

Exploration/Settlement and Transportation as one of the oldest extant buildings in the state of Mississippi and the only surviving inn of the more than 50 that stood along the Natchez Trace. The period of significance for these areas is 1779, the year of the British land grant of the property on which Mount Locust stands, through 1820, the peak of Natchez Trace traffic.

It is also significant at national and statewide levels under CRITERION A in the areas of Other: Commemoration and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway, which memorialized the historic Natchez Trace, for the restoration of the house to its 1820 appearance when the travel along trace was at its peak, and for the development of a National Park unit through the Mission 66 program. The period of significance for these areas is 1937, the year the NPS acquired Mount Locust as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway right-of-way, through 1960, by which time house restoration and site development related to visitors' services and administration during the Mission 66 era had been largely completed.

With concurrence from your office, the CLI findings become certified in the National Park Service Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) database. Concurrence also provides justification for NPS to pursue a National Register nomination for the property as a future project. If you have any questions about these documents, please contact David Hasty, Regional CLI Coordinator, at (404) 507-5780 or by e-mail at david_hasty@nps.gov. The attached concurrence signature form can be returned by e-mail to David Hasty.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,

KIRSTIE HAERTEL Digitally signed by KIRSTIE HAERTEL
Date: 2022.05.17 10:50:11 -07'00'

Chief, Cultural Resources Division
Interior Region 2

CLI SHPO Memo Page 2

MDAH
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6850
mdah.ms.gov

July 28, 2022

Mr. David C. Hasty
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior Regions 1, 2, & 4
1924 Building, 100 Alabama St, SW (6S65)
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8701

RE: National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2021, Mount Locust, Natchez Trace Parkway, (NPS) MDAH Project Log #06-187-22, Jefferson County

Dear Mr. Hasty:

We have reviewed your May 22, 2022, draft cultural landscape report, received on June 30, 2022, for the above-referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800.

After review, MDAH concurs that Mount Locust is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A. However, we also believe there is evidence to support eligibility statewide under Criterion C as one of the earliest examples of a full-galleried, hall-and-parlor planters cottage and a rare surviving example of heavy timber-framed construction. Furthermore, we also believe it would be eligible statewide under Criterion D as it is located on what is highly likely a Cole's Creek-period mound, and is surrounded by precontact archaeological remains. Any nomination and consideration of significance should more fully address the pre-European occupation of the land, and should also consider potential contributions of Native Americans to the Mount Locust landscape including the Chamberlain Cemetery location, also on a mound. Finally, MDAH recommends archaeological study to relocate the slave cabins as indicated on antebellum census data, as there were at least twenty-six slaves listed on the 1820 census (Young 1999). The locations of the cabins in relation to the location of the "big house" at the placement of the cemeteries are vital elements of the Mount Locust landscape. MDAH looks forward to further consultation as the nomination moves forward.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at (601)576-6940.

Sincerely,

Hal Bell

Hal Bell
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: Katie Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer

SHPO Signature Page

Revision

N/A

Chapter 3: Geographic Information

Area (Acres)

34.7

Land Tract Number(s)

102-02

Boundary Description

Mount Locust is located in Jefferson County, Mississippi, at Milepost 15.5 on the Natchez Trace Parkway, 6 miles north of U.S. 61. The 34.7-acre site consists of the c. 1782 house and grounds, an information-exhibit facility with a 30-car parking area, a maintenance complex, and a ranger's office. The house stands on high ground overlooking the historic Natchez Trace and near an early settlement called Uniontown, which has now completely disappeared. The historic landscape associated with Mount Locust includes the original structure and the grounds surrounding it. No original outbuildings survive.

Latitude/Longitude

[enter text here (eg 'See spreadsheet in Appendix.')]

Seq. No.	Geo-metry	Lati-tude	Longi-tude	Geo-Datum	Eleva-tion (Meters)	Position Source	Position Arruracy	Date	Narra-tive
1	Area	31.6892870	-91.1864424	1984 WGS		GIS			
2	Area	31.6871288	-91.1842710	1984 WGS		GIS			
3	Area	31.6844939	-91.1866013	1984 WGS		GIS			
4	Area	31.6827064	-91.1884682	1984 WGS		GIS			
5	Area	31.6865594	-91.1922020	1984 WGS		GIS			

6	Area	31.6898431	-91.1883093	1984 WGS		GIS			

Regional Landscape Context

Physiographic

The state of Mississippi lies almost entirely within what is known as the Gulf Coastal Plain, which is continuous to the east with the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Gulf Coastal Plain is subdivided along the Mississippi River into the East Gulf Coastal Plain and the West Gulf Coastal Plain. The Mississippi River Alluvial Plain is to the northwest. It consists of level and nearly level floodplains that extend to the foothills of the Loess Bluffs, which form a crescent at the region's eastern edge. This landscape feature, known locally as the "Delta," also occurs in eastern Louisiana, Arkansas, and southeastern Missouri.

The coastal plain comprises a large portion of the state's land surface. Coastal plain landscapes are relatively low-lying areas of water-deposited sediments bordering oceans. The mostly hilly Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain, also called the Upper or Inner Coastal Plain, is delineated by the Loess Bluffs on its western edge. The Lower East Gulf Coastal Plain or the Lower or Outer Coastal Plain, is the mostly hilly region that comprises the roughly lower third of Mississippi's land mass. A recent notion of using the terms "Upper East" and "East Gulf" coastal plains, from a botanical standpoint, is reasonably supported by the distinctive lower coastal plain flora.

Mount Locust is located in the Loess Bluffs physiographic region. The geology is characterized by sand, clays, and gravels overlain by up to 90-100 feet of loess—wind-blown late Pleistocene silts. The area’s topography is one of steep-sided ravines and narrow ridges. Soils are mostly alfisols in bluffs and entisols in bottoms and drainages.

Cultural

Mount Locust is within the boundaries of the Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR) right-of-way in Jefferson County, Mississippi. It is located at Milepost 15.5 on the parkway, 6 miles north of U.S. 61 and about 17 miles northeast of the city of Natchez. In 2020, the federal census tallied the county’s population at 7,260, a slight decline from 2010’s population of 7,726. Approximately 37

percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to census figures. The area surrounding Mount Locust in Jefferson County is largely rural.

Political

Mount Locust has been administered by the National Park Service (NPS), since NPS acquired the property as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR) right-of-way in 1937.

Location Map Graphic Information

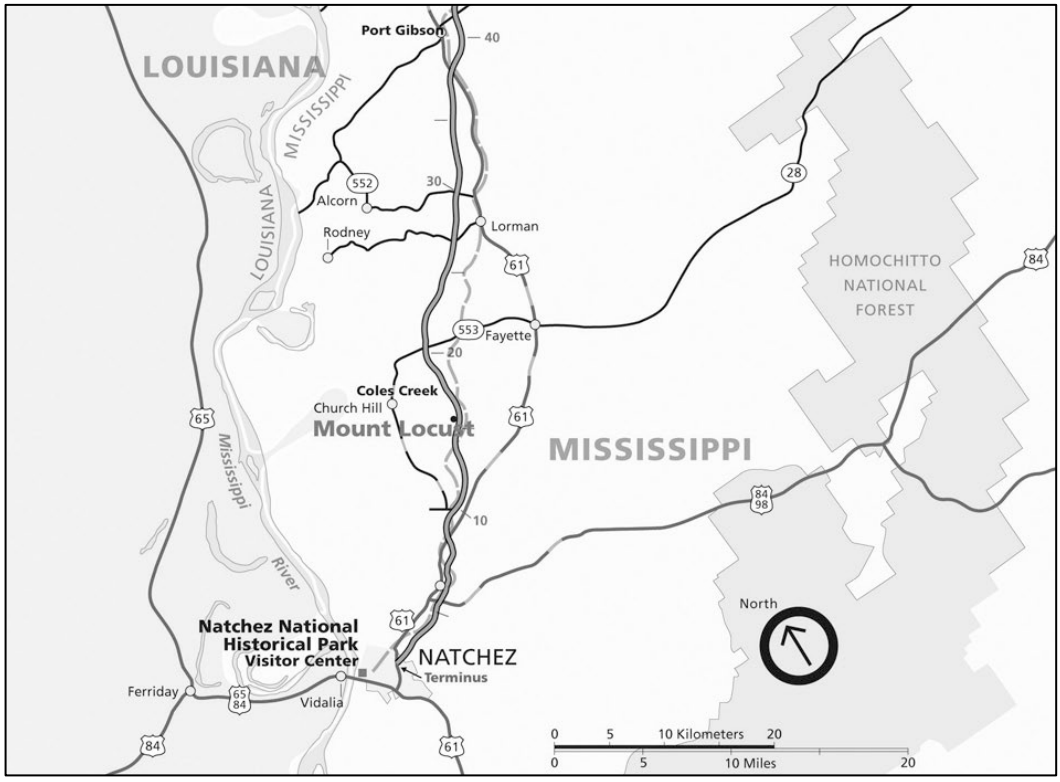


Fig 2. Location map, NPS image

Counties and States

Jefferson County, Mississippi

Chapter 4 : Management Information

Management Category

Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date

07/13/2022

Management Category Explanatory Narrative

Mount Locust is not currently listed in the National Register individually or as a contributing resource to a National Register historic district. However, Mount Locust does appear to meet National Register criteria and is compatible with the park's legislated significance, leading it to be categorized as "Should be Preserved and Maintained (Category B)."

Management Agreements

Management Agreement	Other Management Agreement	Management Agreement Expiration Date	Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Legal Interests

Legal Interest Type	Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date	Other Organization/Agency	Legal Interest Narrative
Fee Simple			All property within the boundary of Mount Locust is owned by the United States and is under the administration of the National Park Service.

Located in a managed wilderness?

Yes

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?

Yes

Narrative

Coles Creek lies outside of the boundary of Section 3-W of the Natchez Trace Parkway, in which Mount Locust is located. It has been host to human settlement since c.600 CE, and the current location of the Chamberlain Family Cemetery is believed to have been the site of a prehistoric Coles Creek hamlet. Coles Creek is a small lower Mississippi River tributary, 80 km. in length, just to the north of the Homochitto River. The tributary would have been considered in the siting of Mount Locust, as the creek made the surrounding land fertile for agricultural use. This natural feature remains in place today and contributes to the significance of the historic landscape.

Adjacent Lands Graphic

No graphic at this point.

Chapter 5: National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status

Undocumented

Documentation Narrative Description

Mount Locust is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) has not been made for Mount Locust or portions of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi. Portions of the Old Natchez Trace in Mississippi are listed in the National Register, although none of these portions is located in close proximity to Mount Locust. These listed portions include Old Natchez Trace (310-2A) (NRIS Ref. # 76000160) in Ridgeland, MS; Old Natchez Trace (212-3K 213-3K) (NRIS Ref. # 76000203) in Kosciusko, MS; Old Natchez Trace (230-3H) (NRIS Ref. # 76000159) in Mathiston, MS; Old Natchez Trace (132-3T) (NRIS Ref. # 76000161) in Port Gibson, MS; Old Natchez Trace and Choctaw Agency Site (NRIS Ref. # 94001579) in Ridgeland, MS; and Old Natchez Trace (170-30) (NRIS Ref. # 76000160) in Ridgeland, MS. The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places entered a DOE in 2004 that portions of the parkway, specifically those in Tennessee, were eligible for listing. This DOE stated that the Tennessee portion of the parkway is eligible under criteria A and C due to its significance "for its association with the planning and development of a national parkway system during the New Deal era and as an example of naturalistic parkway design (Keeper of the National Register 2004)." While this 2004 DOE only pertained to portions of the parkway in Tennessee, it went on to state, "Based on the information provided, it appears that the entire length of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee may be eligible for listing in the National Register (Keeper of the National Register 2004)."

Mount Locust additionally appears to meet National Register criteria for listing.

Eligibility

Eligible – SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date

07/28/2022

Concurrence Eligibility Narrative

[enter text here]

Significance Level

National, Statewide

Contributing/Individual

Individual

National Register Classification

Site

Statement of Significance

Mount Locust is significant at national and statewide levels under CRITERION A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Transportation as one of the oldest extant buildings in the state of Mississippi and the only surviving inn of the more than 50 that stood along the Natchez Trace, the only improved and direct road between the Cumberland District in Tennessee and the Lower South, from the late 1700s through the mid-1820s. The period of significance for these areas is 1779, the year of the British land grant of the property on which Mount Locust stands, through 1820, the peak of Natchez Trace traffic. It is also significant at national and statewide levels under CRITERION A in the areas of Other: Commemoration and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway, which memorialized the historic Natchez Trace, for the restoration of the house to its 1820 appearance when the travel along trace was at its peak, and for the development of a National Park unit through the Mission 66 program. The period of significance for these areas is 1937, the year the NPS acquired Mount Locust as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway right-of-way, through 1960, by which time house restoration and site development related to visitors' services and administration during the Mission 66 era had been largely completed to its 1820 appearance and the visitors' services buildings had been constructed. Mount Locust is additionally significant under CRITERION C at the statewide level as a rare and early example of a full-galleried, hall-and-parlor planter's cottage of heavy timber-framed construction. Mount Locust is also significant at the statewide level under CRITERION D in the area of Archeology: Historic - Aboriginal as there is evidence that the house was constructed on a Cole's Creek-period mound surrounded by precontact archeological remains;

and in the area of Archeology: Historic - Non-Aboriginal, as there were most likely cabins for enslaved workers located on the property whose archeological remains could yield valuable information about the lifeways of enslaved workers along the Natchez Trace.

Exploration/Settlement. Natchez became a part of the British colony of West Florida, which was considered part of the Old Southwest, in 1764 after the French had occupied the site in Fort Rosalie earlier in the eighteenth century. Large land grants were made to veterans of the French and Indian War, and many settlers sought the richly fertile land of the Mississippi River flood plain in the Old Natchez District— a narrow strip of land along the east bank of the Mississippi extending from Vicksburg to the 31st parallel. One such area was Coles Creek, north of Natchez, where a large group settled. By 1778, the population of the Natchez District had reached more than 2,600. Most settlers living near the city had less than 10 acres in cultivation, although a few had up to 100. (Bureman 1985, 42).

In 1779, the British granted Thomas Harmon 650 arpents of land, which at some point before 1781 was transferred to John Blommart, one of the wealthiest men in the old Natchez District, who led an unsuccessful attempt to take Natchez from Spanish control in 1781. The Spanish confiscated Blommart's land, and in 1784, William Ferguson acquired half of the Blommart tract. Although the house may have been constructed earlier, it was first recorded in a survey in 1785 as "Mr. Wm Ferguson's dwelling house." Settlement and development of the property thus began when the Natchez District was flourishing. As one of the oldest extant buildings in the state of Mississippi, which gained statehood in 1817, Mount Locust and its historic landscape features remain an excellent example of early exploration/settlement in the Natchez District and Mississippi.

Transportation. One such extant historic landscape feature is the property's location adjacent to the Old Natchez Trace. In the eighteenth century, the merchants of Natchez, and later Nashville, recognized the economic importance of establishing regular trade with the Choctaw and the Chickasaw. Between Natchez and the settlement at Nashville lay 450 miles of wilderness,

connected by a network of ancient Native American trails. Because the area lacked convenient waterways to serve as trade routes, merchants had to depend on the Native American trails.

One of these trails was the Chickasaw Trace, which ran from Nashville to the Chickasaw Nation near Tupelo, Mississippi. There it intersected another trail that connected the Choctaw and the Natchez tribes. The southern part of this trail appeared on French maps as early as 1733 as the "Path to the Choctaw Nation." Joining these major through trails were many cross trails (Bureman 1985, 41). These trails were later recognized as part of the Natchez Trace.

Explorers and traders who used these trails passed the information on that overland travel between Nashville and Natchez was possible. Settlers in the Ohio Valley regions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky began using the old Native American trails soon after the American Revolution. Unable to transport their bulky products over the Allegheny Mountains, they floated their freight down the rivers to markets in Natchez and New Orleans. The boatmen—called "Kaintucks" no matter where they came from—could not return against the river current and sold both cargo and boats when they reached their destination. Some bought horses and rode, but most walked the Natchez Trace back to Nashville. In 1797, Joseph Bullen, the missionary to the Chickasaw, reported that a thousand boatmen were passing through the Chickasaw Nation every year from Natchez to their homes in the North (Phelps 1955, 11-15).

The trace was primarily used by boatmen before the United States gained control of Natchez from Spain in 1800. Due to the relative remoteness of Natchez, correspondence could take months to reach the district, and thus Postmaster General Habersham selected the Natchez Trace as a post road from Nashville to Natchez as directed by Congress. After gaining consent from the Chickasaw and the Choctaw that a wagon road could be cut through their land, a survey of the proposed route was ordered.

The Chickasaw and Choctaw did not originally consent to accommodations being built along the road. After treaty negotiations in 1805, the tribes permitted the establishment of inns or "stands," which were often quite primitive. Eventually, the road lost some of its wilderness character, and

the crude stands of the early days gave way to better equipped establishments. Most of the stands were located on farms or plantations where food for both men and horses was available.

Family tradition maintains that the house was used as a stand or inn after 1785, when the Natchez Trace was heavily traveled by flatboat crews returning north after bringing their goods down the Mississippi to Natchez or New Orleans. Mount Locust's location twenty miles north of Natchez would have been an ideal place for such accommodations. An 1838 Gwin and Daugherty map of Mississippi lists "Mrs. Ferguson's" as a stopping place on the Trace, verifying that Mount Locust, still owned by the Ferguson family, was used as a stand.

During the first twenty years of the nineteenth century, the Natchez Trace was a significant national road. By 1810, it was reported that 8,000-10,000 boatmen walked or rode the Natchez Trace annually. Although other routes opened up in the Old Southwest between 1810 and 1820, for most of that time the Natchez Trace remained the official designated postal route between Nashville and Natchez and ultimately, Washington, D.C. and New Orleans (Bureman 1985, 63-68; Phelps 1962, 207-8; Myers 1960, 147). After 1820, the construction of new roads, the rise of the steamboat, and the beginning of railroad incorporation led to the diminishing use of the Natchez Trace. At its peak, however, the Natchez Trace was the only improved and direct road between the Cumberland District in Tennessee and the Lower South. This ancient north/south transportation corridor eventually declined into a series of local roads and byways (Phelps 1962, 204-205). Despite the decline in use of the Natchez Trace, Paulina Ferguson, widow of William Ferguson, continued to operate the stand, catering to Natchezeans, until 1842, according to family tradition.

Mount Locust is the only surviving inn of the more than fifty that stood along the Natchez Trace from the late 1700s through the mid-1820s. NPS historian Dawson Phelps noted in his study "Mount Locust a Restudy of Its History," that "no other site or object is more directly associated with the Natchez Trace, throughout its history, than is Mount Locust." As the house maintains its relationship to the Old Natchez Trace, it is a primary example of what travel along the historic transportation route would have been like. Mount Locust is nationally significant in the area of

transportation as the only extant stand along the Natchez Trace that would have housed some of the thousands of travelers along the route from the late eighteenth century through the early nineteenth century.

Commemoration and Entertainment/Recreation. Early efforts by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to commemorate the Natchez Trace in the early twentieth century by placing markers in Natchez and the counties through which the trace traveled raised awareness and provided momentum for an effort to more formally memorialize the Natchez Trace. The vision to commemorate the historic Natchez Trace through a national parkway began in 1934, when Congress appropriated $50,000 for a survey. Under this authority, the old road was located and flagged in its entire length, in as near as practicable to its original route. Two reports were prepared and submitted to Washington, one covering the history of the road and the methods followed in locating the Old Trace and the other discussing the possible route of the parkway and preliminary cost estimates (Phelps 1965-76, III-3-4, V-1).

The survey revealed that it was impossible to identify a definitive old Natchez Trace, as there were at least three old trails, each of which with some validity might be regarded as the correct road. Nonetheless, after an immense amount of information had been assembled, Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) engineers, advised by NPS historians, flagged the approximate route and entered the results onto a map (Phelps 1965-76, V-2).

The major goal was not to preserve or restore the historic Natchez Trace but to memorialize it with a new parkway (Phelps 1965-76, V-2). The NPS acquired the Mount Locust property from the Ferguson-Chamberlain family in 1937 as part of the right-of-way for section 3-W of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The NPS hoped to use the house, the sole surviving structure that existed during the peak years of travel on the Natchez Trace, as an interpretive feature of the parkway. However, construction of the parkway was frequently interrupted by war and inadequate funding.

Construction through 1952 consisted of grading, drainage, gravel base, bridges, and bituminous paving. Maintenance of paved sections was assumed by the NPS. In the period 1935-53, approximately $17.2 million had been appropriated for surveys and construction. An official BPR report in 1956 conceded that funding interruptions plagued parkway progress from the beginning. Of the 450 miles included in the project, only 114 miles were fully completed, including 80 miles in Mississippi, 6 miles in Alabama, and 28 miles in Tennessee. A number of other sections were in various stages of completion, but the rights-of-ways had not even been acquired for some sections. This rather bleak situation reflected a larger NPS dilemma nationwide, for which Director Conrad Wirth proposed a monumental ten-year effort called Mission 66.

An ambitious Mission 66 program called for recreational and park related facilities, as well as continued progress in completing the parkway. By the end of 1966, a total of 269 miles of paved parkway was complete at a total cost of $77 million, including numerous picnic areas, comfort stations, campgrounds, roadside exhibits, and administrative/service buildings.

Although Bill Chamberlain continued to occupy the house until 1944 and became the first park ranger, the house was suffering from neglect and required a temporary stabilization treatment until a decision was made about the building's ultimate treatment. Further development of the site as a house museum was delayed until 1954, when Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect of the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC) was assigned to oversee the stabilization project, with architect Henry A. Judd providing day to day supervision. At this time, the house was completely disassembled in order to trace the evolution of the house from original one-room structure to rambling nine-room structure. These investigations showed that certain additions had been made to the original structure very early and that it had been radically changed and enlarged around 1820 and again in the 1840s (1958 Completion Report, 2).

On March 8, 1955, Peterson presented the findings at a meeting held in Philadelphia to representatives from the Director's Office, the Eastern Office of Design and Construction, and the Region 1 Regional Office. A decision was reached at this meeting to restore Mount Locust to its

condition in 1820, a date that corresponded with the height of travel on the Natchez Trace. The house restoration was completed in April 1956 at the beginning of the Mission 66 era. The dedication of Mount Locust occurred on February 15, 1957 (1958 Completion Report, 3; May 1955 Monthly Narrative, NATR Archives). Also completed in 1957 was an exhibit shelter with a comfort station, and further site development consisting of facilities related to Park maintenance and administration including a shop and equipment storage building, pump house, employee residence, and oil and paint storage building. A 1958 planting and circulation plan improved visitors' abilities to walk around the property and experience vegetation as it might have been planted during the height of Natchez Trace traffic. The restoration of the house and development of visitor and administration amenities was indicative of the Mission 66 era.

The survey of the historic Natchez Trace for parkway development conducted by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) in 1940 stated that the "primary purpose [of the Natchez Trace Parkway was…] the memorialization of the historical importance of the Old Natchez Trace through a parkway that is both useful and attractive" and determined that "the proposed parkway should parallel and pass historic sites as closely as existing conditions and the high technical standards of construction will permit" (US DOI 1940, 150). Including Mount Locust in the right-of-way of the parkway provided the perfect opportunity to commemorate the historic Natchez Trace, as it preserved the last remaining stand along the route. The restoration of the house in 1956 for use as a house museum, construction and development of visitor, interpretive, and administrative services, and the implementation of the 1958 planting plan furthered and made more accessible recreational opportunities at the site, one of the NPS' core resource values. As part of the Natchez Trace Parkway, the Mount Locust cultural landscape is significant in the areas of commemoration and entertainment/recreation due to its association with the commemoration of the Natchez Trace and its interpretation as the sole extant stand, which was advanced during the Mission 66 era.

Architecture. Mount Locust is eligible for listing at a statewide level under Criterion C as one of the earliest examples of a full-galleried, hall-and-parlor planters cottage and a rare surviving example of heavy timber-framed construction.

Archeology. Mount Locust is eligible for listing at a statewide level under Criterion D as it is located on what is highly likely a Cole's Creek-period mound, and is surrounded by precontact archaeological remains. Archeological studies of the property could yield further information regarding the pre-European occupation of the land and could also indicate potential further contributions of Native Americans to the Mount Locust landscape including the Chamberlain Cemetery location, also on a mound. Additionally, archeological studies could determine the location of slave cabins as indicated on antebellum census data, which documents that there were at least twenty-six enslaved workers listed on the 1820 census (Young 1999). The locations of the cabins in relation to the location of the "big house" at the placement of the cemeteries are vital elements of the Mount Locust landscape.

National Register Significance Criteria

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Considerations

N/A

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes)

Seq. No.	Start Year/Era and End Year/Era	Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet
	1779-1820	Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	American Exploration and Settlement
	1779-1820	Developing the American Economy	Trails and Travelers	Indigenous Peoples Trails
	1779-1820	Developing the American Economy	Transportation by Land and Air	Early Turnpikes, Roads, and Taverns East of the Mississippi

	1937-1960	Developing the American Economy	Transportation by Land and Air	Carriage Roads, Touring Roads, and Parkways
	1937-1960	Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters the Movement, 1884-1949: Battlefield Preservation; Archeological Preservation; The National Park Service and the New Deal; The National Trust; Growth in Professionalism and Technology

National Register Areas of Significance

Seq. No.	Category	Subcategory (only for Archeology and Ethnic Heritage)	Narrative
01	Exploration/Settlement		
02	Transportation		
03	Other: Historic Preservation and Commemoration		
04	Entertainment/Recreation		

NRIS Information

Seq. No. (R)	NRIS Name (R)	NRIS ID (R)	NRIS URL (R)	Other Name	Primary Certification Date (R)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

State Register Documentation

Seq. No. (R)	Identification Number	Name	Listed Date	Narrative
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

National Historic Landmarks

Status	Theme	Contributing	NHL ID	NHL URL	Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark

N/A

World Heritage Site

Status	Category	WHS ID	WHS ID URL	Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape?

No

Chapter 6: Chronology & Physical History

Chronology

Seq. No.	Major Event	Major Event Narrative	Start Year of Event	Start Era	End Year of Event	End Era
1	Military Operation	Conquest of the Natchez District by Spain	1779	CE	1779	CE
2	Built	Possible construction date of Mount Locust by Harmon or Blommart	1779	CE	1779	CE
3	Military Operation	Confiscation of Blommart property by Spanish government	1781	CE	1781	CE
4	Land Transfer	Silas Crane acquires Blommart property	1782	CE	1782	CE
5	Built	Possible construction date by William Ferguson	1782	CE	1785	CE
6	Purchased/Sold	William Ferguson acquires one-half of the Blommart property from Crane	1784	CE	1784	CE
7	Built	Mount Locust dwelling house appears on 1785 Vousdan survey	1785	CE	1785	CE
8	Established	Ferguson involved in a plan to establish the town of Union on his property east of Mount Locust	1799	CE	1799	CE
9	Exploited	Height of Natchez Trace traffic	c.1800	CE	c.1820	CE
10	Land Transfer	William Ferguson dies and Paulina Ferguson inherits Mount Locust	1801	CE	1801	CE
11	Developed	Paulina divorces James Chamberlain and operates the property as a stand	1812 or 1816	CE	c.1842	CE
12	Purchased/Sold	Paulina Ferguson purchases 93 acres of Liverpool plantation	1832	CE	1832	CE
13	Land Transfer	Paulina Ferguson dies and Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain inherits Mount Locust	1849	CE	1849	CE
14	Land Transfer	Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain dies and property left to three children	1854	CE	1854	CE
15	Land Transfer	Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain II takes deed to Mount Locust	1926	CE	1926	CE
16	Built/Graded	Funding and construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway begins	1934	CE	1934	CE
17	Purchased/Sold	Mount Locust acquired by the NPS	1937	CE	1937	CE

18	Inhabited	Bill Chamberlain continues to live in the house	1937	CE	1944	CE
19	Stabilized	House enclosed in tar paper	1944	CE	1944	CE
20	Restored	Restoration of house to c.1820 configuration	1955	CE	1956	CE
21	Developed	Site development (included an interpretive shelter with a comfort station, an employee residence, a shop and equipment storage building, and a pump house. In 1960, an oil and paint storage building was added)	1957	CE	1960	CE
22	Altered	Interpretive shelter enclosed	1993	CE	1993	CE
23	Memorialized	Dedication of DAR monument	1994	CE	1994	CE
24	Preserved	Historic Structure Report prepared	1998	CE	1998	CE
25	Built	Trail accessibility plan implemented	2002	CE	2002	CE
26	Built	Construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway completed	2005	CE	2005	CE
27	Preserved	Cultural Landscape Report prepared	2009	CE	2009	CE

Physical History

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

1 – Early Human Occupation, 600 CE-1540 CE

Physical History Narrative

Mississippian is the term used by archeologists to describe the diverse pre-European contact societies of Native Americans who inhabited the fertile river valleys of the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mississippi Rivers from approximately 700 CE to the arrival of the first European explorers during the sixteenth century. The mound building Mississippians thrived, sustained primarily by agriculture, and the cultivation of maize or corn allowed them to produce food surpluses, which eventually led to a more centralized society. European contact, beginning with the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto on the west coast of Florida in 1539, brought diseases that ravaged the Mississippian Indians. As their populations plummeted, the surviving Mississippians began uniting into new tribes, dominated by the Creek, the Chickasaw, the Choctaw, and the Seminole (National Park Service 1998, 15-16; The Cherokee, who occupied the

hill and mountain country of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, eventually became the largest tribe in the Southeast).

Mount Locust Prehistoric Cultural Occupation (600-1200).

The only prehistoric cultural occupation identified in the area is the Coles Creek period, dating from 600 to 1200 A.D. It was during this period that construction of flat-topped ceremonial and residential mounds began. Most of the mound sites are situated at the interface of the Mississippi River floodplain and the uplands, but the general population was dispersed in hamlets and small villages scattered along the tributary creeks. The Chamberlain Family Cemetery site was the apparent location of one such small Coles Creek hamlet (Atkinson 1996, 5).

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

2 – The Natchez, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Tribes Era, c.700 CE-c.1830 CE

Physical History Narrative

The Natchez Indians

The Natchez were a well-known American Indian tribe that formerly lived on and about St. Catherine's Creek, east and south of what became the town of Natchez, Mississippi. They interacted with the French and English during the colonial period. Their language, related to the Muskhogean language family, indicates that the historic Natchez were the same ethnic group as the prehistoric Plaquemine culture of the Lower Mississippi River Valley, part of the larger Mississippian culture, who constructed Emerald Mound, the Grand Village, and other Mississippi period sites in the Natchez area. Construction of the mounds at the Grand Village was done in stages, probably beginning in the thirteenth century.

The Natchez as the Europeans knew them were a confederacy of several ethnic groups, with the descendants of the people who built Emerald Mound and the Grand Village serving as the core population. Their mound building activity had ceased sometime before the arrival of French explorers in the late 1600s, but archeological evidence indicates that they continued to use the

mounds in a ceremonial way. Emerald Mound may have been the main ceremonial mound center for the tribe before that status was shifted to the Grand Village sometime prior to European contact.

The Chickasaw and the Choctaw

The Chickasaw and Choctaw were Mississippi's two largest Native American groups. Before the United States government forced their removal in the 1830s, the Chickasaw resided in north Mississippi with their villages centered between the headwaters of the Yazoo and Tombigbee Rivers around present-day Tupelo. They also claimed lands covering present-day western Tennessee. The Choctaw were concentrated in east central Mississippi, from the lower Alabama, Tombigbee, and Black Warrior Rivers on the east to the Mississippi River on the west.

Culturally, both groups spoke a nearly identical language. Their societies were organized matrilineally (meaning that ancestry was traced only through the mother's line), political power was decentralized so that each of their seven or so villages had their own chiefs and other leaders, and they viewed the sun as the ultimate expression of spiritual power for its ability to create and sustain life. It has been conjectured that the Chickasaw and the Choctaw were one tribe just before European contact. There was no "northern" province of the Choctaw nation - just southern, central, eastern and western. Chickasaws inhabited the area that would have reasonably constituted a northern Choctaw district.

A network of well-defined, interconnecting trails along a northeast/southwest axis facilitated intertribal contact. The two primary links that later became the Natchez Trace connected the area near present day Nashville, Tennessee, with the Chickasaw settlements near Pontotoc, Mississippi, and the area from the Natchez District northward to the same Chickasaw settlements. Their economies were based on agriculture, hunting, gathering, and trade (Bureman 1985, 24).



Fig 3. Aerial view of Emerald Mound, 1958. (Natchez Trace archives)



Fig 4. The Choctaw, the Chickasaw, and the Natchez. (NPS image).



Fig 5. Painting of Choctaw village by Bernard, 1869. (Courtesy of Peabody Museum Collections/Harvard University).

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

3 – European Contact and Early Settlement, c.1540 CE – c.1830s CE

Physical History Narrative

European Contact with the Natchez Indians

The Mississippi Territory was first explored by Hernando de Soto in 1541 while searching for gold. In 1682, the Frenchman, Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, came down the Mississippi River from Canada. He claimed the entire Mississippi River Valley for Louis XIV and named it "Louisiana".

Following La Salle's contact with the Natchez Indians, French and English explorers, priests, and military personnel made frequent visits to the area. In 1716, the French established Fort Rosalie at

present-day Natchez as the nucleus of a colony. Over the next thirteen years, the French colony at Natchez grew. However, disputes and misunderstandings between the French and the Natchez resulted in a series of conflicts.

The situation worsened as the Natchez became caught up in the eighteenth-century struggle for control of North America between England and France. By the 1720s, English agents were successful in turning a significant portion of the Natchez tribe against the French.

The Natchez attacked Fort Rosalie in 1729, killing most of the French garrison there. In response, the French organized a retaliatory expedition in 1730. They and their Choctaw Indian allies occupied the Grand Village, using the location to lay siege to the Natchez, who had withdrawn into stockaded fortifications to the south. During the siege, French troops used the central mound as an emplacement for their artillery.

This confrontation marked the beginning of the destruction of the Natchez as a nation. Although the siege failed to force their surrender, the Natchez permanently abandoned their traditional territory as a result of it. Fewer than 300 of the Natchez eventually were captured by the French and sold into slavery in the West Indies. The remainder escaped to join other tribes as refugees, including the Chickasaw, the Creek, and the Cherokee (Barnett, n.d.).

European Contact with the Choctaw and the Chickasaw

During the winter of 1540-41, Hernando de Soto's ill-fated Spanish expedition encountered Chickasaws, who attacked them repeatedly until the Spanish moved west across the Mississippi River. By the 1690s, Chickasaws, well-armed with English guns, were attacking Choctaws to the south, seizing captives and selling them to the English. In 1699, France established the colony of Louisiana, creating a presence within territory previously claimed by the British colony of South Carolina. Choctaws defended themselves with guns from the French, thus ending the Chickasaw captive raids.

In two periods, 1720-1725 and 1733-1743, the Chickasaw fought against France and her ally the Choctaw. Attacks and counter-retaliations occurred over the years. French attacks in 1736 and 1739 both failed, and France and the Chickasaw signed a truce in 1740, allowing French boats to travel unmolested on the Mississippi River. When France lost the Seven Years War to Britain in 1763, they no longer posed a threat to the Chickasaw. The Chickasaw and Choctaw also patched up their relations during the Seven Years War, ending decades of conflict. The Chickasaw survived France's attempt to destroy them, but their population suffered as their numbers dropped dramatically during this period.

With their ally and long-time trading partner England in control of much of the eastern territory of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River area after 1763, the Chickasaw experienced few threats to their existence. That agreeable situation ended when the American Revolution erupted in 1776. The Chickasaw tried to remain neutral, but they eventually sided with Britain because of the long history between the two nations.

After the American Revolution, the Chickasaw quickly established relations with the United States and with Spain. The Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War in 1783, allowed Spain to control a large portion of the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas.

During the 1780s and 1790s, the Chickasaw and Choctaw established trade with both countries while refusing to be dominated by either. That state of affairs ended in 1795 when, in the Treaty of San Lorenzo, Spain ceded any claim to lands above the 31st parallel. The Mississippi Territory was formed three years later in 1798, and Americans flooded into lands along the Mississippi River and then along portions of the Natchez Trace that went through the middle of Chickasaw lands. After 1801, the Native Americans were under constant pressure to surrender their lands, which continued to shrink through a series of land cession treaties.

Protestant missionaries began converting Chickasaws to Christianity in the early nineteenth century, also teaching English, arithmetic, and domestic skills. The U.S. government suggested that Native Americans could use these new "civilized" abilities to become American citizens.

Unfortunately, even though many Chickasaws and Choctaws did adopt the values, economics, and religion of their American neighbors, residents of Mississippi, which became a state in 1817, insisted that Native Americans had no right to possess lands that Euro-American citizens could own and farm. The Mississippi government passed a law in February 1829 that relinquished all Native American land claims in the state and extended state jurisdiction over those lands.

Following the 1830 passage of the Indian Removal Act by the U.S. government, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek forcibly removed most Choctaws to land west of the Mississippi River, to the present state of Oklahoma. In the summer of 1830, Chickasaw representatives met with U.S. delegates, including President Andrew Jackson, at Franklin, Tennessee, and a treaty was signed August 31. The Chickasaw agreed to cede their lands east of the Mississippi River in exchange for an equal amount of land in the west, but this treaty became void when a suitable area could not be found. New negotiations for removal were undertaken in 1832 in Chickasaw territory at Pontotoc Creek. On October 20, a treaty was signed that ceded Chickasaw lands in Mississippi to the U.S. government. The lands were to be surveyed and sold immediately with each adult Chickasaw receiving a temporary allotment that would also be sold and all monies placed in a fund to cover the costs of removal.

Settlers quickly occupied the Chickasaw lands beginning in 1832, despite a provision of the treaty promising that the U.S. government would prevent new settlement until the Chickasaw actually left Mississippi. A suitable new homeland in the west was not found until January 1837 when a meeting was held at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory, and the Choctaw sold the western part of their new territory to the Chickasaw. Although this agreement between the two tribes was not a treaty with the United States, President Jackson submitted it to the Senate for approval anyway, which was accomplished in February 1837. Further details about the exact extent of territory and rights granted the Chickasaw were decided in two additional agreements between the two Native American nations in 1854 and 1855 (O'Brien, n.d.).

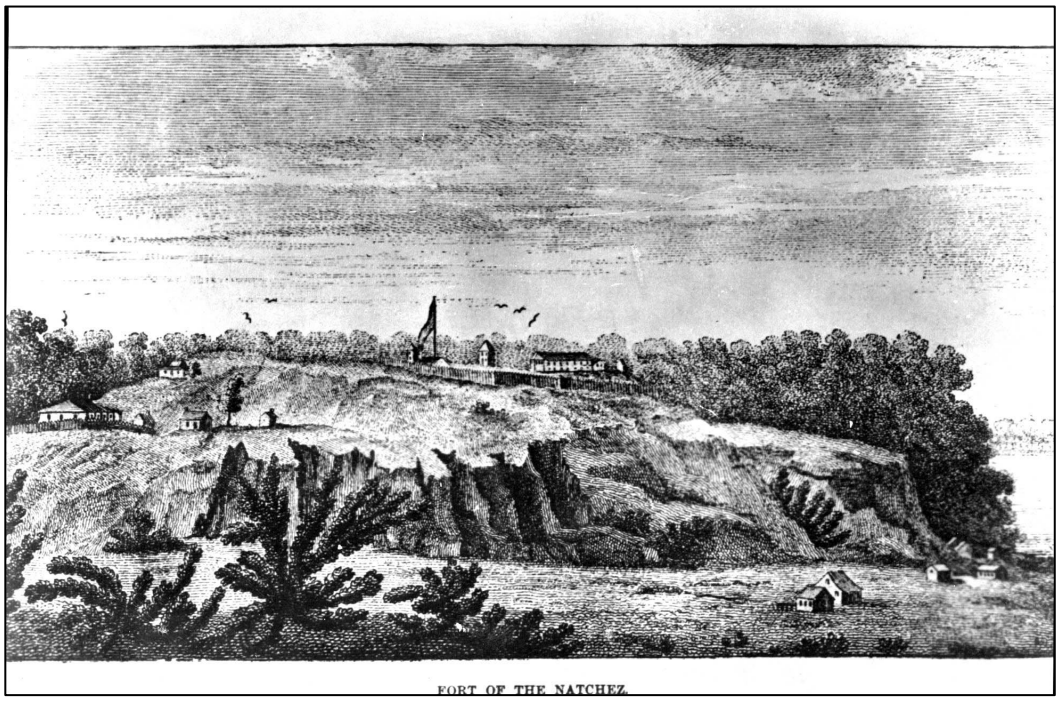


Fig 6. Sketch of Fort Rosalie by Collot, 1797. (Courtesy Historic Natchez Foundation)

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

4 – The Old Natchez District, 1682-1860

Physical History Narrative

From 1682 to 1763, West Florida, a province on the north shore of the Gulf of Mexico now forming parts of the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, was divided between the Spanish, who held an outpost at Pensacola as part of their Florida colony, and the French, who garrisoned Mobile as part of their colony of Louisiana. By 1713, a French trading post had been opened at the site of Natchez, and in 1716, the French established Fort Rosalie to protect the settlers. The removal of the seat of government of the Louisiana colony from Mobile to New Orleans in 1723 probably helped the growth of the Fort Rosalie settlement. The population of the Natchez area was over 700 in 1729, the year that the Natchez Indians attacked Fort Rosalie, killing most of the garrison. After the massacre, there was a limited reoccupation of the Natchez

settlements. A 1745 census showed eight white males and less than twenty enslaved workers in Natchez (Myers 1960, 37-42).

In treaty negotiations concluding the Seven Years War in 1763, Britain received all North American possessions east of the Mississippi River, except New Orleans, from France and the colony of Florida from Spain. The British reorganized this territory into the provinces of East Florida, which consisted of most of the present-day state of Florida, and West Florida, bounded by the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain on the west, by the 31st parallel on the north, and the Apalachicola River on the east. In 1764, the British moved the northern boundary of West Florida to a line running due east of the mouth of the Yazoo River (Myers 1960, 43).

Thus, Natchez became a part of the British colony of West Florida in 1764. Large land grants were made to veterans of the French and Indian War, and many settlers sought the richly fertile land of the Mississippi River flood plain in the Old Natchez District— a narrow strip of land along the east bank of the Mississippi extending from Vicksburg to the 31st parallel. One such area was Coles Creek, north of Natchez, where a large group settled. By 1778, the population of the Natchez District had reached more than 2,600. Most settlers living near the city had less than 10 acres in cultivation, although a few had up to 100. Tobacco was the principal export crop (Bureman 1985, 42).

Britain lost control of the area when Spain captured Baton Rouge and peacefully occupied Natchez in 1779. In 1784, Governor Miro issued the first Spanish order for the survey of lands in the Natchez District. The Spanish did not relinquish control of the area until 1798, when Spain reluctantly accepted treaty obligations with the United States. During this period of Spanish rule, however, Spain made little attempt to alter social or economic activities, and English speaking settlers continued to move into the region. The Spanish did bring in Irish clergymen to convert the citizens to Catholicism (Bureman 1985, 34; Myers 1960, 53).

The Mississippi Territory was established in 1798, with Natchez as its capital. Before the United States expanded beyond the Mississippi River, the land that would become Mississippi,

Alabama, and Tennessee was known as the Old Southwest. Soon after the formation of the Mississippi Territory, the first two counties, Adams and Pickering, were formed from the Old Natchez District. By 1800, nearly every plantation within the Natchez District had its own cotton gin. Cotton quickly became the District's primary cash crop, and with it came a large enslaved labor force (Myers 1960, 60).

Before 1810, Siamese or Creole cotton was the standard variety grown, but it had the disadvantage of a large seed and tiny bolls and was subject to insect damage. In 1806, Walter Burling of Natchez brought back seeds from Mexico, which he found ripened earlier and had larger bolls. A new variety was later developed by crossing this Mexican cotton with Georgia upland green-seed cotton. An 1808 account mentioned that besides "immense quantities" of high quality cotton, the Natchez planters raised corn, tobacco, rice, hemp, and flax (Myers 1960, 108).

In 1810, the Mississippi Territory had a total white and slave population of 30,053. The Old Natchez District was divided into Adams, Jefferson (former Pickering, name changed in 1802), Claiborne (formed in 1802), Wilkinson (1802), Warren (1809), Franklin (1809), and Amite (1809) counties. Mississippi gained statehood on December 10, 1817 (Myers 1960, 99).

By the 1820s, Burling's Mexican cotton had rapidly replaced the older varieties in the Natchez region, and its use was spreading to other areas because its large bolls were easy to pick and because of its resistance to boll rot. Some planters in western Jefferson and Claiborne counties developed a new variety called "Petit Gulf." By 1830, the best agricultural land in the Old Natchez District had all been occupied. Cotton farming was extremely exhaustive of soil nutrients, however, and soil erosion was common.

Beginning in the 1820s, some farmers planted cow peas between their rows of corn. After the corn had been harvested and the peas had ripened, livestock was turned into the field. Thus cowpeas provided food for stock and gave some protection to the soil from erosion. Most importantly, however, the cowpea improved the fertility of the soil by extracting nitrogen from the air and adding it back into the composition of the soil (Myers 1960, 163; Moore 1971, 59-60).

The financial panic of 1837 was followed by twelve years of declining cotton prices. Although some diversification to other crops occurred, in many cases the average planter tried to recover by growing more cotton or improving the quality of the yield. In the 1840s, a new type of Mexican cotton, called Mastodon, was developed by Richard Abbey, although Colonel Henry Vick was the most successful breeder of new varieties.

Corn continued to be the major food and feed crop, supplemented by sweet potatoes and cow peas. Other crops experimented with were turnips, peanuts, upland rice, wheat, clover, and various northern grasses. Bermuda remained one of the chief pasture grasses. Thomas Affleck established one of the first commercial nurseries in the region at Washington, Mississippi. His Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation and Garden Calendar, in which he advocated scientific agriculture to his fellow plantation owners, was widely read.

As cotton prices improved in the 1850s, fortunes were made in the Old Natchez District. Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, many large mansions were built in Natchez as a symbol of this new wealth. As cotton fields became depleted, it was quite common to move on to new lands and establish new plantations further west in Louisiana and Texas. Prior to the Civil War, Natchez had the most millionaires per capita of any city in the United States. A large number of planters owned land across the Mississippi River but resided in Natchez, making it arguably the wealthiest city in the nation at the time. Journalist Edward King visited Natchez in 1873:

> There were, before the war, great numbers of planters' residences in the suburbs,--beautiful houses, with colonnades and verandahs, with rich drawing and dining-rooms, furnished in heavy antique style, and gardens modeled after the finest in Europe. Many of these homes have been destroyed. We visited one or two whose owners have been fortunate enough to keep them. The lawns and gardens are luxurious. The Mississippian wealth of roses is inconceivable to him who has not visited such gardens as Brown's, in Natchez-under-the-Hill, and that of Mr. Shields, in the suburbs of the upper town. I remember no palace garden in Europe which impressed me so powerfully with the sense

> of richness and exquisite profusion of costly and delicate blooms as Brown's, at Natchez, which a wealthy Scotchman cultivated for a quarter of a century, and handed down to his family, with injunctions to maintain its splendor (King 1875, 293).

Vegetation Trends in the Natchez District in the Nineteenth Century.

Hedges. By the end of the eighteenth century, the Cherokee rose (Rosa laevigata) had become so widely naturalized in several of the southern states that French botanist Andre Michaux identified it as an American native. Thomas Affleck wrote about the local use of the Cherokee rose as a substitute for traditional wooden fences, conserving timber and reducing maintenance costs. In the days before barbed wire (introduced in 1880), a properly planted and maintained hedge of this nature was considerably less expensive than a worm or zigzag fence. Joseph Holt Ingraham made a plea for such hedges:

> In a country where the "chickasaw rose," which is a beautiful hedge thorn, grows so luxuriantly, it is worthy of remark that the culture of the hedge, so ornamental and useful as a field-fence, is altogether neglected. Planters would certainly find it eventually for their interest, and if generally adopted, the scenery of this state would rival the loveliest sections of rural England (Ingraham 1835, 108-109).

Frederick Law Olmsted also commented favorably on the use of the Cherokee rose as a hedgerow plant in southwest Mississippi. Another contemporary horticulturist in southwest Mississippi commented that a Cherokee rose hedge was so dense it "would shutout completely the view into the adjoining fields." In 1856, the executors of the estate of Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain directed the overseer at Liverpool to plant "a hedge of the Cherokee rose" (Ferguson Family, Wills and Estate Papers, NATR Archives; Carriere 1980, 5; Cothran 2003, 72; Puryear 1991, 11).

Avenues and Groves. Johnnie Chamberlain, who lived at Mount Locust until 1937, described an avenue of old oaks leading up to Mount Locust. In the period up to 1860, this kind of ornamentation would have been unusual in southwest Mississippi. Joseph Holt Ingraham described the scene:

> A long avenue of trees, ornamenting and sheltering the approach to a dwelling, is a rare sight in this state [Mississippi], though very frequently seen in Louisiana, yet, in no region of the south can fine avenues of beautiful trees be made with such facility. … No state surpasses this in the beauty, variety, and rapid growth of its ornamental shade trees; the laurel, sycamore, locust, oak, elm, and white bay with the "pride of China,"—the universal shade tree in the southwest—arrive here at the most perfect maturity and beauty. Every plantation residence is approached by a drive, often nearly a mile in length; yet so little attention is paid to this species of ornament and comfort, in a climate where shade is a synonym for luxury, that scarcely one of them is shaded, except where … nature has flung the broad arms of majestic trees across the path (Ingraham 1835, 100-101).

In the period up to 1860, groves of trees were more common. Unlike the carefully planted ornamental groves in English landscape gardens, those found in the antebellum South more likely consisted of existing stands of indigenous trees—poplars, oaks, cedars, hickories, magnolias, beeches, catalpas, maples, and pines. One visitor to the area commented:

> The country around Natchez is broken, and the soil, like all lands of the kind in the South, very rich, and covered with the finest forest trees. We have traveled through some of these beautiful specimens of Nature's handy-work, before the axe had made a single waste, and we were struck with the great beauty of the groves of trees which met our eye everywhere, and we could not help expecting the palace of some wealthy landholder would suddenly peep out among the trees of the distant landscape. Around Natchez, though one of the oldest settled countries in the Union, these beautiful natural groves have been spared (Cothran 2003, 31).

Frederick Law Olmsted also described tree shaded lanes:

> From the Homochitto to the suburbs of Natchez, a good half day's ride, I found the country beautiful; fewer hills than before, the soil very rich, and the land almost all inclosed in plantations, the roadside boundaries of which are old rose-hedges. The road is well constructed; often, in passing through the hills, with high banks on each side, coped with thick and dark, but free and sportive hedges, out of which avenues of trees growing carelessly and bending angel-like over the traveler, the sentiment of the most charming Herefordshire lanes is reproduced. There are also frequent woods, of a park-like character in their openness; the trees chiefly oak, and of great height (Olmsted 1959, 192).

Local Herbariums. John Carmichael Jenkins was a medical doctor who moved to Natchez in 1833. He was also interested in botany and put this interest to use when he inherited two plantations in Wilkinson County in 1837. He eventually became an expert in fruit culture for the South and wrote articles on scientific farming. Jenkins married the granddaughter of William Dunbar of Forest Plantation south of Natchez, who developed an arboretum that included many varieties of trees.

In the 1830s, Jenkins created a six-volume herbarium of Louisiana and Mississippi, concentrating on native herbaceous material. Although almost half of the specimens are not identified, the volumes provide valuable information about the native and naturalized plants in the area. Examples found in the herbarium include southern sugar maple (*Acer barbatum*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), honey locust (*Gledidsia triacanthos*), Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), mossy cup oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*), Carolina cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), Cherokee rose, spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), hearts-a-burstin'(*Euonymous americanus*), and Louisiana iris. It is interesting to note that several of these were either mentioned in travel accounts of the area or listed by Johnnie Irene Chamberlain as growing at Mount Locust (see below in Analysis and Evaluation). None of the exotics that became synonymous with southern gardens would typically have been included in a herbarium.

A later herbarium from 1861 that included exotics as well as natives was that of Sarah Frances Jenkins in Livingston, Alabama, just across the state line. Her specimens included bridalwreath spiraea (*Spiraea prunifolia*), gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*), button bush (*Cephalantus occidentalis*), sweet shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), fringe tree (*Chionantus virginicus*), Carolina yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), Persian lilac (*Syringa × persica*), mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*), snowball viburnum (*Viburnum opulus 'Sterile'*), oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), black locust (*Rhobinia pseudoacacia*), sweetbay magnolia (Magnolia virginiana), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*), Lady Banks' rose (*Rosa banksiae*), and Harrison's yellow rose (*Rosa × harisonii*) (Orr 1958, 7; Stritikus 1991).

Nurserymen. As mentioned earlier, Thomas Affleck opened one of the first large-scale fruit tree and ornamental nurseries in the South— Southern Nurseries in Washington, Mississippi. His first catalogue included 230 pears, 177 apples, 63 peaches, 16 cherries, 15 figs, 13 plums, and 11 nectarines, among others. Planters throughout the lower south were planting orchards to provide some amount of variety in their diets and the diets of their enslaved workers.

Affleck also carried ornamentals. In 1851, he advertised 162 varieties of roses. He felt that southerners should not order nursery stock from northern nurseries, as the plants were not acclimated to the South. He felt that the Natchez area was ripe for a nursery, noting that "Natchez and New Orleans were settled communities where wealth and cultured citizens took pride in gardens, lawns, and orchards."

From 1847 to 1861, he published Affleck's Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation and Garden Calendar. He also published the "Plantation Record Book" and the "Plantation Account Book" for sugar and cotton plantations. Affleck hoped to introduce systematic business methods and scientific land management into southern farming (Welch and Puryear, 6; Colten and Welch 2006, 5-9).

Affleck's garden calendar is a valuable resource for determining appropriate antebellum plantings for the Natchez area. Affleck first describes the planting of the major cash crop, cotton

or sugar. Next he describes the "Plantation Garden," which was the area that provided food for the field workers. Next, he provides information about the "Kitchen Garden," the area of the plantation landscape that provided food for the inhabitants of the main dwelling house and the house servants. Only after the economic and practical demands of the plantation are addressed does he describe the "Flower Garden and Shrubbery" and lastly the "Fruit Garden and Orchard" (Colten and Welch 2006, 9).

In the larger plantation garden, he included potatoes, mustard, turnips, cabbage, beets, peppers, tomatoes, shallots, garlic, horseradish, sage, okra, beans, peas, corn, squash, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins. For the kitchen garden he recommended planting cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, onions, artichokes, potatoes, horseradish, peas, radishes, parsnips, beets, carrots, turnips, salsify, spinach, parsley, corn, melons, squash, cucumbers, snap beans, lima beans, okra, peppers, eggplant, kidney beans, celery, turnips, rutabaga, endive, broccoli, leeks, shallots, tomatoes, asparagus, sweet herbs, and chrysanthemums.

His recommendations for the shrubbery and flower garden included "Syringas, Roses, Altheas, Honeysuckles, Jasmines, Myrtles, etc." For border plantings, he recommended lynchnises, campanulas, sweet Williams, columbines, sunflowers, foxgloves, larkspurs, dahlias, tulips, hyacinths, gladioli, chrysanthemums, and peonies (Colten and Welch 2006, 9-41).

Another nursery was C. B. Swazey's Mississippi Nurseries of Yazoo City, Mississippi. The 1854 American Cotton Planter recommended Affleck's Southern Nurseries and Swazey's Mississippi Nurseries as two of the best fruit tree nurseries in the South (Stritikus 1990, 6).

Frederick Law Olmsted. Frederick Law Olmsted visited the Natchez area in May 1854. He observed that "the country is entirely occupied by houses and grounds of a villa character; the grounds usually paltry with miniature terraces, and trees and shrubs planted and trimmed with no regard to architectural or landscape considerations. There is, however, an abundance of good trees, much beautiful shrubbery, and the best hedges and screens of evergreen shrubs that I have seen in America. The houses are not remarkable" (Olmsted 1959, 192).

Fencing Trends in the Nineteenth Century.

Fences were a common landscape form in antebellum southern plantations. They would have been used to enclose gardens, screen work yards, protect crops and orchards, confine livestock, and define property lines. With free ranging livestock the rule, southerners constructed fences that were "hog tight and head high."

Because of soil exhaustion and the need to find virgin land, most farmers erected Virginia or worm fences, a zigzag line of split rails laid on top of one another. Worm fences were easy to build and easy to dismantle, load on a wagon, and reassemble elsewhere. These fences were perfectly suited to a land rich in timber and open space. They required no joinery or nailing, no elaborate shaping of the rails, and no digging of postholes. Most worm fences were simple stacks of eight or nine rails and stood four-and-one-half or five feet high, but some carried additional stakes and riders (eight-foot-long stakes wedged into the ground and locked over the topmost horizontal rail) and stood as high as six feet. They were greatly favored for extensive fencing projects, such as enclosing cultivated fields and defining property boundaries (Stilgoe 1982, 190).

Though not as common as the fence just described, there were two other types of rail fences. The first type is commonly called the stake-and-rider fence, which had one high rail supported on stakes above the other rails. This fence was built in the same fashion as the common rail fence, but it would be stacked only four or five rails high. When the entire fence was built to this height, the farmer would then drive two poles, or stakes, into the ground, one on each side of the corner joint between each panel. The stakes would be of sufficient length to be sturdy when driven into the ground yet tall enough to be two or three feet above the last rail. A small block nailed between the two posts a few inches below the top gave support for another rail to complete each panel. The fence would then contain a space of about two feet between the top, or the rider, and the four or five bottom rails. By building the fence in this manner, the farmer used fewer rails to have a fence high enough to keep the livestock from jumping it (Waterman 1981, 9-10).

Rails, stakes, and riders were split from durable woods such as cedar and chestnut, as well as locust, oak, and heart pine, and the fence was left unpainted. The strength and stability of the Virginia rail fence was derived from the angle at which each section or panel met the next—the sharper the angle, the stronger the fence. The principal disadvantage was its tremendous consumption of land and timber. A ten-rail stake-and-rider fence occupied a corridor ten feet wide and required more than five thousand rails per mile. However, ease of construction and flexibility outweighed these drawbacks (Patrick 1998, 100).

Another common fence type was the post-and-rail, which used the same split rails as the Virginia rail fence, but set into split or mortised posts that were sunk into the ground to form a continuous, ladder-like barrier. It required more hours to erect than worm fencing but wasted less space. Its main disadvantage was rot, as the posts set into the ground decayed within five to ten years if softwood like pine was used. In 1860, a writer in the Southern Cultivator noted that locust rails lasted about fifty years but that second growth pine rotted within three or four years. Although more open than Virginia rail fences, the post-and-rail successfully protected domestic yards, cultivated fields, pastures, orchards, and, to a lesser extent, churchyards, courthouse grounds, town lots, and gardens. Posts of decay-resistant locust, cedar, or chestnut with rails of resilient oak, poplar, or heart pine made for fences of considerable strength and durability. Post-and-rail fences were seldom painted but were allowed to age naturally, thus reducing upkeep and maintenance (Stilgoe 1982, 191-92; Patrick 1998, 100; Cothran 2003, 68).

The paled fence was essentially a post-and-rail fence with vertically positioned boards nailed along one face of its length. This type of fence was both practical and decorative. It was the best choice short of a masonry wall for protecting and dignifying gardens, workyards, town lots, grave sites, and the surroundings of public buildings. A less truly functional version of the paled fence, the picket fence, using thinner, more elaborately cut uprights, came into fashion toward the end of the eighteenth century. Pickets and pales were not synonymous in the eighteenth century, but by the mid-nineteenth century, picket had become a generic term for all fences with vertical components affixed to a post-and-rail framework (Patrick 1998, 101).

A hierarchy of fencing was common, with more decorative picket fencing used near the house and more utilitarian zigzag or board fencing used for fields, orchards, and livestock. Decorative fencing, located in front or to the side of the house, enclosed simple plantings of flowers, trees, and shrubs. More utilitarian areas within the work yard relied on the use of crude board fences to protect the kitchen garden and to enclose an assortment of outbuildings.

Fence laws had been enacted in most southern states by 1860. Mississippi defined a lawful fence as one that was "strong and sound, five feet high, well staked … sufficiently locked, and close enough to prevent animals from creeping in." By 1860, wire fences were being advertised in southern agricultural journals for both farm and residential use. The condition of a planter's fences was often used as a measure of his worth as a farmer. A writer for Soil of the South noted that "nothing fixes our estimate of a planter sooner than the character of his enclosures" (Stilgoe 1982, 191; Cothran 2003, 69).

After the Civil War, the cost of materials and revised concepts of private property and agricultural efficiency hastened a serious revision in the philosophy of fencing in the South. Gradually, more and more animals were fenced in, and new materials like wire appeared as alternatives to wood. Traditional wood fences did not disappear but were retained and adapted. Although built of modern milled lumber, the paled fence continued to be used for the same purposes, and the post-and-rail fence found a new role in enclosing vast fields of cattle. Even the Virginia rail fence, that great consumer of land and timber, did not completely fade from view (Patrick 1998, 103).

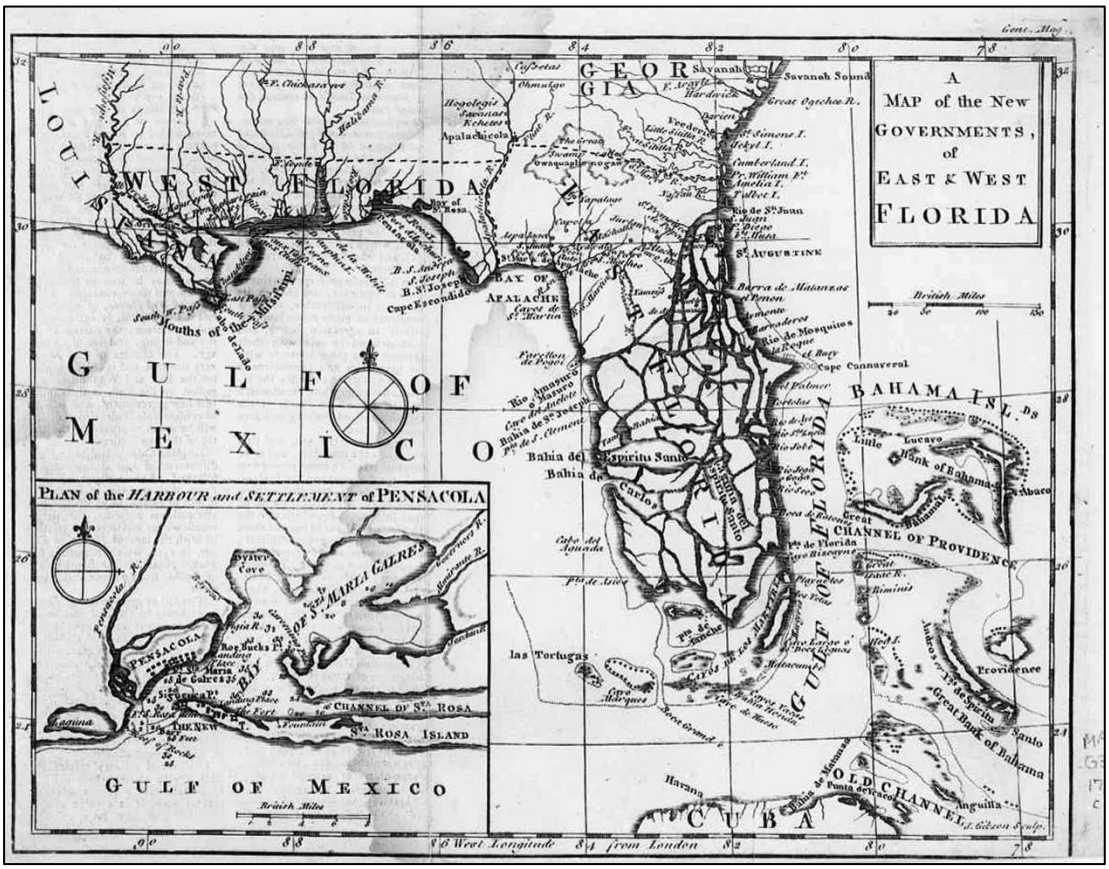


Fig 7. Map of East and West Florida by Gibson, 1760. (Courtesy Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library/University of Georgia Libraries)

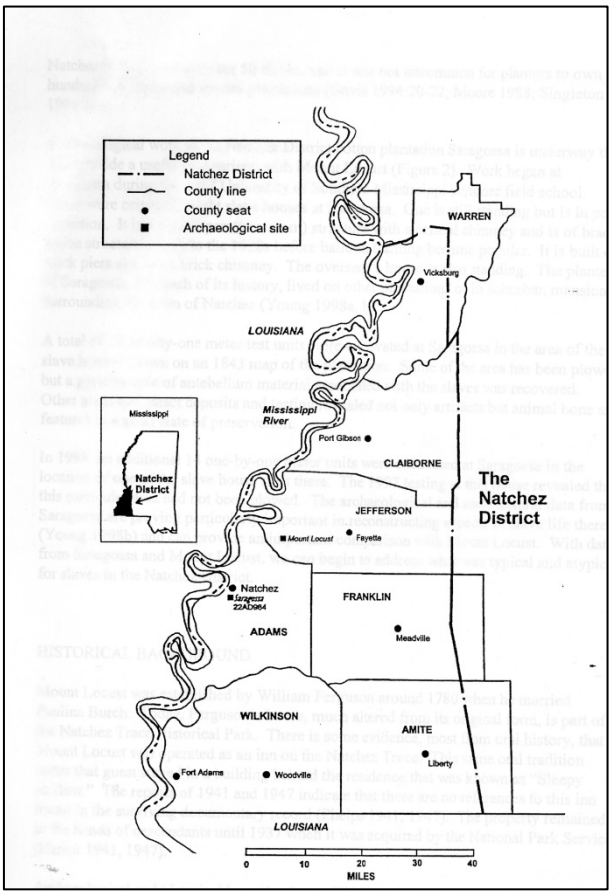


Fig 8. Old Natchez District. (NPS image)

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

5 – Origins of the Natchez Trace, c.1733–c.1840s

Physical History Narrative

In the eighteenth century, the merchants of Natchez, and later Nashville, recognized the economic importance of establishing regular trade with the Choctaw and the Chickasaw. Between Natchez and the settlement at Nashville lay 450 miles of wilderness, connected by a network of ancient Native American trails. Because the area lacked convenient waterways to serve as trade routes, merchants had to depend on the Native American trails.

One such trail was the Chickasaw Trace, which ran from Nashville to the Chickasaw Nation near Tupelo, Mississippi. There it intersected another trail that connected the Choctaw and the Natchez tribes. The southern part of this trail appeared on French maps as early as 1733 as the "Path to the Choctaw Nation." Joining these major through trails were many cross trails (Bureman 1985, 41).

Explorers and traders who used these trails passed the information on that overland travel between Nashville and Natchez was possible. Settlers in the Ohio Valley regions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky began using the old Native American trails soon after the American Revolution. Unable to transport their bulky products over the Allegheny Mountains, they floated their freight down the rivers to markets in Natchez and New Orleans. The boatmen—called "Kaintucks" no matter where they came from—could not return against the river current and sold both cargo and boats when they reached their destination. Some bought horses and rode, but most walked the Natchez Trace back to Nashville. In 1797, Joseph Bullen, the missionary to the Chickasaw, reported that a thousand boatmen were passing through the Chickasaw Nation every year from Natchez to their homes in the North (Phelps 1955, 11-15).

During the years prior to Spain's withdrawal from Natchez in 1798, few people other than returning boatmen made the trip over the Natchez Trace. By 1800, regularly scheduled mail service had been initiated between Natchez and Nashville. The slow passage of the mail and the strategic importance of the Old Natchez District in case of a war with Spain forced the United States government to act. In 1801, the President heeded the requests of the Secretary of State and the Postmaster General and instructed the army to clear out a road between Nashville and Natchez. General James Wilkinson, the commander of all the American forces in the West, was in charge of the work. After gaining consent from the Chickasaw and the Choctaw that a wagon road could be cut through their land, he ordered a survey of the proposed route.

The establishment of temporary bases or cantonments occurred on Duck River Ridge and Duck River in Tennessee, the Tennessee River in Alabama, and Grindstone Ford in Mississippi. The road stretched from the Davidson County line, a few miles south of Nashville, to Bayou Pierre,

fifty miles north of Natchez. Ferries provided transport over the Duck and Tennessee Rivers (Bureman 1985, 56-60; Phelps 1962, 206).

The Chickasaw and Choctaw did not originally consent to accommodations being built along the road. After treaty negotiations in 1805, the tribes permitted the establishment of inns or "stands," which were often quite primitive. Eventually, the road lost some of its wilderness character, and the crude stands of the early days gave way to better equipped establishments. Most of the stands were located on farms or plantations where food for both men and horses was available.

In 1806, $6,000 was appropriated to improve the condition and alignment of the road, although only $3,000 was spent. A new alignment cut some fifty miles off the previous route. Since no funds were appropriated for maintenance and upkeep, however, these improvements were of a temporary nature. The Governor of Tennessee described the road in an 1811 address:

> The road leading from West Tennessee to Natchez, which was regularly stipulated for by the general government, and designed for the use and convenience of travelers, is in very bad order; it requires much work to put it in repair, and to keep it up for the convenience of those who travel it to and from market.

The large numbers of boatmen and others using the Natchez Trace during it apex continued to erode the integrity of the road. By 1810, it was reported that 8,000-10,000 boatmen walked or rode the Natchez Trace annually. Matters came to a head during the War of 1812, when the British invaded Louisiana in 1814. A special congressional committee recommended a direct appropriation for repair and maintenance of the road, but Andrew Jackson's victory at New Orleans ended the war before Congress could take any formal action.

No further money was spent on the road until 1817, when a $4,000 appropriation was made to cut a road from Reynoldsburg, Tennessee, through the Chickasaw Nation to intercept the Natchez road below the Chickasaw villages. Although other routes opened up in the Old Southwest between 1810 and 1820, for most of that time the Natchez Trace remained the official

designated postal route between Nashville and Natchez and ultimately, Washington, D.C. and New Orleans (Bureman 1985, 63-68; Phelps 1962, 207-8; Myers 1960, 147).

After 1820, urban development in northwestern Alabama, some distance east of the Natchez Trace crossing of the Tennessee River, was partly responsible for a major change in the postal route from Nashville to Natchez. Andrew Jackson wanted a Military Road from Columbia, Tennessee, to New Orleans by way of Madisonville, Louisiana. An entirely new road was built and opened in 1820. It replaced the Natchez Trace as the designated postal route from Columbia, Tennessee, to Florence, Alabama, returning to the Trace at Colbert's Stand below Florence. The Natchez Trace retained its designation as a Post Road until 1834. During this time, efforts continued to locate a more timely route to ensure the best possible communications between Washington, D.C., and New Orleans. Changes in the Nashville-Natchez mail route, however, did not involve a change in the location of the Natchez Trace (Bureman 1985, 83-87; Phelps 1962, 214).

The most dramatic decline in the use of the Natchez Trace was a result of the rise of steamboat traffic after 1811 on the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers. The ability of the steamboat to move upriver with considerable ease made the trip from New Orleans/Natchez to Nashville and beyond much faster than travel over the Natchez Trace, and steamboats eventually carried most of the boatmen back to the Ohio River Valley (Bureman 1985, 87).

By the mid-1820s, as new roads were built, the Natchez Trace had lost its importance as a trunk highway. Its decline as a major link between the lower Mississippi River valley and Nashville continued as population and economic growth, particularly within the former Native American lands, led to an increased demand for a better local and regional transportation and communication network aligned on an east/west axis. The Natchez Trace, as a general north-south route, ran counter to the transportation needs of the day—access to the river and the capital in Jackson (Bureman 1985, 89).

Railroads in the area, such as the West Feliciana and the Vicksburg and Clinton Railroads, began to be incorporated in 1831. One in the Natchez Trace area was the Mississippi and Pearl River

Railroad Company, which was incorporated in 1836 to build track from Natchez to some point in the northern part of the state. By the 1840s, the Natchez Trace was no longer used as a through road from Nashville to Natchez, but sections were still being used for local transportation (Myers 1960, 202).

During the first twenty years of the nineteenth century, the Natchez Trace was a significant national road. At its peak, the Natchez Trace was the only improved and direct road between the Cumberland District in Tennessee and the Lower South. This ancient north/south transportation corridor eventually declined into a series of local roads and byways (Phelps 1962, 204-205).



Fig 9. Flat boat on the Mississippi River. (Courtesy of Center for Louisiana Studies)

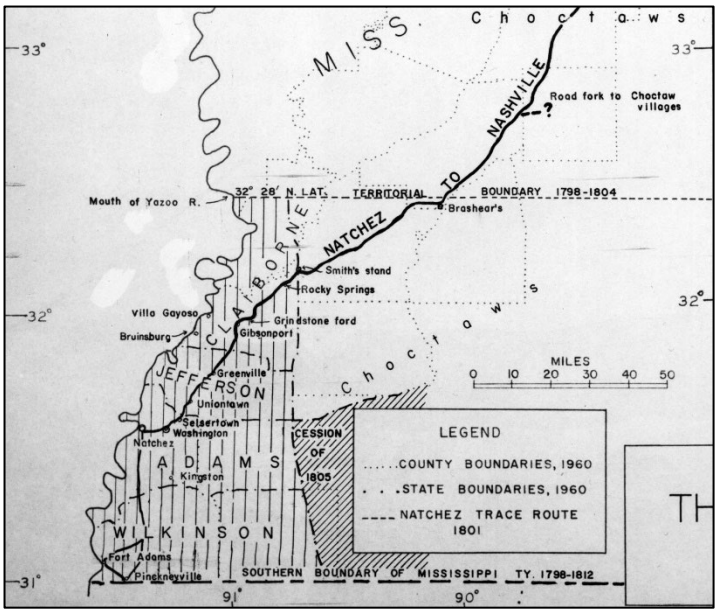


Fig 10. 1805 map of Natchez Trace. (NPS image)

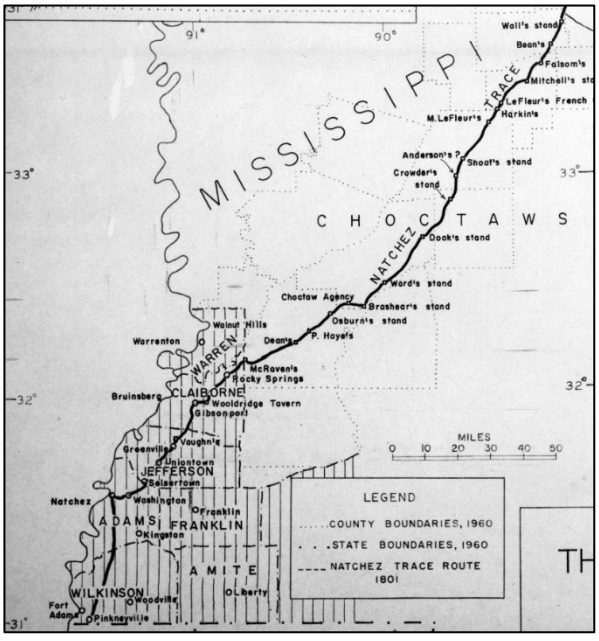


Fig 11. 1815 map of Natchez Trace. (NPS image)

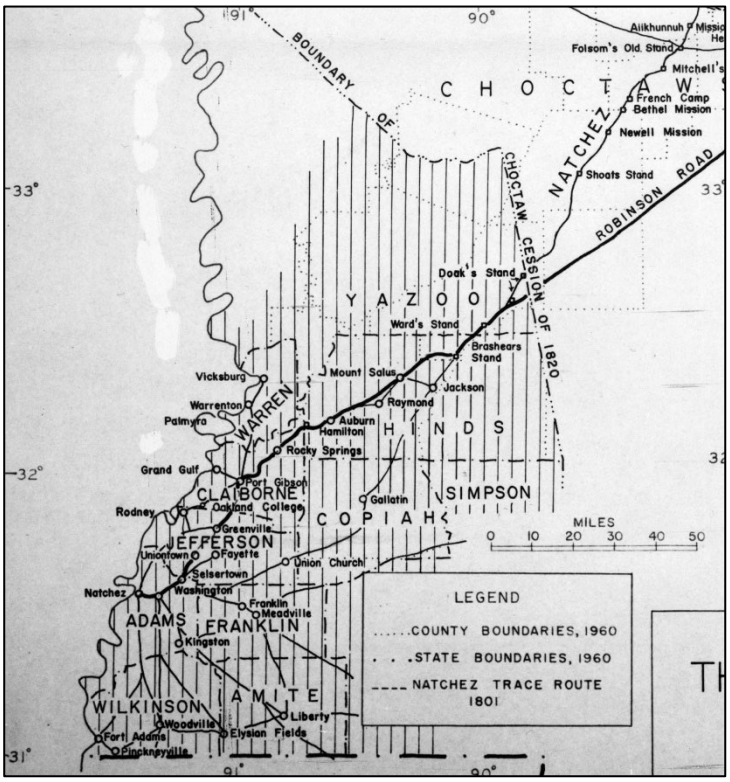


Fig 12. 1825 map of Natchez Trace. (NPS image)

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

6 – Historic Occupation of Mount Locust (1779-1937)

Physical History Narrative

The tract of land on which Mount Locust stands is half of a British land grant of 650 arpents made to Thomas Harmon in 1779 (1 arpent = 0.84628 acre). At some point prior to 1781, the tract was transferred to John Blommart, who led an unsuccessful attempt to take Natchez from Spanish control in 1781. He was jailed and all his property confiscated. Silas Crane acquired the Blommart tract from the Spanish government in 1782. In 1784, half of the Blommart tract was acquired by William Ferguson. The first survey occurred in 1785, which included the notation "Mr. Wm

Ferguson's dwelling house." The Ferguson family retained title to Mount Locust until its acquisition by the NPS in 1937.

John Blommart Era at Mount Locust (1765-1781)

John Blommart served as a warrant officer in the British Royal Navy before coming to West Florida with a group of Swiss Protestant colonists around 1765. He later moved to Natchez where he became a merchant, fur trader, land speculator, and planter. By 1781, he was one of the wealthiest men in the Old Natchez District. When he acquired the Mount Locust tract from Thomas Harmon is unknown.

Natchez, however, was rife with turmoil. In 1781, Pensacola's British commandant urged Blommart to lead a revolt in Natchez against the Spanish while British regulars moved on Mobile and Baton Rouge. Although Blommart's forces captured the Natchez fortification, Spanish troops took Pensacola. Blommart was forced to surrender the fort, and in the aftermath, he was jailed and all his property, including the Mount Locust tract, was confiscated. He was later exiled by Spain to the British West Indies. Silas Crane acquired Blommart's confiscated land from the Spanish government in March 1782 (Phelps 1955, 3-11).

William Ferguson Era at Mount Locust (1774-1801).

No document indicating the birthplace of William Ferguson has been found, but he apparently came to the Natchez District from Essex County, Virginia, along with a group of families who migrated to Natchez from Virginia about 1774. William Ferguson was living in the Natchez area around 1776 and served as a garrison clerk of the British fort at Natchez in 1778.

In 1777, Silas Crane made a bond to deliver 300 arpents of land to William Ferguson and William Williams. During the years 1781 to 1784, Ferguson continued to live in the Natchez area. In 1782, he was living on St. Catherine's Creek (a tributary of Coles Creek) near the Natchez fort, where he lived until he sold the land in 1784 (Phelps 1955, 12-13; Bailey 1956, 2).

In 1782, he applied to the Spanish government to compel Silas Crane to deliver the deed for half of the Blommart tract acquired by Crane from the Spanish government. Crane conveyed the land in 1784, and Ferguson secured title in 1785 (Silas Crane made a bond of 500 pounds with William Ferguson in 1777 to deliver 300 arpents of land; Phelps 1947, 3; Phelps 1955, 2, 10).

The identification of the land deeded by Silas Crane to William Ferguson as being part of the Blommart tract was certified by William Vousdan, Surveyor of the Spanish Government of Natchez, in 1785. This plat includes a building identified as "Mr. Wm Fergusons dwelling house." The "Path" from which there is an access trail to Mount Locust may refer to the "Path to the Choctaw Nation," which later became part of the Natchez Trace (Phelps 1941, 7; Phelps 1955, 15; "Historical Data Relating to Sites in the Vicinity of Mound Locust," Natchez Trace Parkway, n.d.). William Ferguson secured title to another tract on March 5, 1789. The General Land Office surveyed both tracts after Ferguson's death, and they appeared on the plat of Township No. 8, Range No. 1, Land District West of Pearl River as Sections 65 and 66. A study of this area in 1939 found that the site of Mount Locust or Mound Plantation, as shown on the 1785 plat, matches the location of the house as platted on a NPS map (Phelps 1941, 11; Phelps 1947, 3).

William Ferguson married Paulina Burch in 1783 and probably moved to Mount Locust in 1784 after he acquired the land from Silas Crane. Receiving a grant in 1789 that increased his holdings to 1,215 acres, Ferguson devoted most of his time to the affairs of a planter. He had enough area under cultivation to hire Noel Pittman as overseer for the season in 1785. William and Paulina Ferguson had seven children—six sons and one daughter.

The original Mount Locust structure was a one-room house. It was probably built by William Ferguson between 1782, when he applied to the Spanish government for half of the Blommart tract, and 1785, when it was first described in the Vousdan survey. The text of the act of confiscation, dated October 21, 1781, specifically stated that there was "no settlement" on the Blommart tract (Phelps 1947, 3; personal communication, Sally Reeves, former Head Archivist, The Notarial Archives).

Although it is contrary to the description of "no settlement" on the tract, Mount Locust may have been built by Thomas Harmon or John Blommart prior to 1781 in compliance with the 1779 land grant. One condition on which the West Florida government granted land in the Natchez District was that the grantee agreed to work at least three acres of each fifty "accounted plantable," or erect "one good Dwelling House to contain at least twenty feet in length, sixteen feet in Breadth." The framing of the original house revealed it was one large room, sixteen by twenty feet (Phelps 1955, 5).

It has been stated that a Spanish blockhouse surrounded by a moat and stockade stood on the land. Its purpose would have been to defend the Natchez area against raids by the Choctaw Indians. Local tradition indicated that some of the timber used to build the house came from the stockade, and that the remainder of the lumber came from flatboats carrying produce down the Mississippi River to Natchez. After the cargo was unloaded, the boats were broken up and the lumber sold on the open market. There is no evidence to support this claim, since the first flatboats arrived in Natchez in 1785. Archeology conducted in 1941 found no evidence of a Spanish stockade (Phelps 1941, 1-12; Phelps 1955, 5; Kaye 1998, 6).

Family tradition maintains that the house was used as a stand or inn after 1785, when the Natchez Trace was heavily traveled by flatboat crews returning north after bringing their goods down the Mississippi to Natchez or New Orleans. Mount Locust's location twenty miles north of Natchez would have been an ideal place for such accommodations. The house first appears on a 1785 survey of the property by William Vousdan, Deputy Surveyor of the Spanish Government of Natchez (Kaye 1998, 3; Phelps 1941, 6).

An indication of Ferguson's position was his appointment in 1797 by the Spanish governor as "Alcalde" of the District of Coles Creek, and in 1798, he was appointed Sheriff of Pickering County. In 1799, Ferguson was involved in a plan to establish the town of Union on his property east of Mount Locust. Although the town appeared on Mississippi maps for many years, it never

expanded much beyond the planning stages, as William Ferguson died in 1801 (Phelps 1955, 13-16; Phelps 1947, 3).

Uniontown. William Ferguson and four of his neighbors— George Cochran, John Girault, William Moss, and James Truly— recorded a deed for 75½ acres and a plat of Uniontown on September 14, 1799. Since the town site, except for 9 acres, was located on Ferguson's land, it would seem that he was the chief promoter (Jefferson County Deed Book, A-1, 15-17).

In 1901, Franklin L. Riley wrote:

> It [Uniontown] was a place of some importance, being laid out in streets and extending over a large area. Here early in the century, Jackson Warren and Thomas Shackleford started a tanyard and a shoe shop. In writing of the business enterprises of Old Uniontown the late Col. John A. Watkins of New Orleans says: "Farley made all the hats. … Jake Warner made shoes at Uniontown, Pintard was cabinet maker, McMurchy made wagons, ploughs, etc. Greenleaf, about 1797, established a cotton-gin factory" ("Historical Data Relating to Sites in the Vicinity of Mound Locust," Natchez Trace Parkway, n.d., photocopy, NATR Archives).

Although this may be true, land records of Jefferson County show that other than the tanyard lots, only a few other lots were sold. Contemporary travelers left descriptions of the nearby towns of Washington, Selsertown, and Greenville but failed to mention Uniontown despite the fact that it appeared on most Mississippi maps published during the years 1800-1830. The explanation seems to be that William Ferguson died in 1801, and the town never really got past the planning stages. The Federal Census of 1800 enumerated forty-one people. It was described in 1808 as "a small village of three or four houses in decay" (Malcolm Gardner to Chief, EODC, 1956, NATR Archives; Myers 1960, 62, 101).

Shackleford Spring. The Chamberlain family says that the spring furnished water for a tanyard operated by Shackleford and that his house stood nearby. When the town site plat is

superimposed on a 1952 aerial map, using the spring as the point of departure, the town site occupies most of the open field directly in front of Mount Locust. At a much later period, a steam cotton gin, owned by Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain II, perhaps during the period of 1900 to 1910, was located on the site (Malcom Gardner to Chief, EODC, April 26, 1955, NATR Archives).

A note on the plat reads "'Will' Ferguson's 141 feet the length of the Town next his house." This is interpreted to mean that Mount Locust is 141 feet from the upper (northwestern) side of town. This distance coincides on the southwest with an existing tree line, marking the open field in front of Mount Locust. That part of the Old Trace directly in front of Mount Locust, at one time a county road, approximately coincides with the northwest side of the town site (Malcom Gardner to Chief, EODC, April 26, 1955, NATR Archives).

Paulina Burch Ferguson Era at Mount Locust (1801-1849).

According to an inventory of William Ferguson's estate, the farm known as Mount Locust consisted of 713 acres. The estate was divided among the heirs in 1826. That part of the tract on which Mount Locust sits became the property of Ferguson's widow, Paulina (Division of Real Estate of Wm. Ferguson Sr. deceased, April 3, 1826, Probate Record Book B of Inventories of Jefferson County, page 85).

Paulina Ferguson married James Chamberlain in 1806. They had four children. According to family tradition, Paulina divorced Chamberlain in 1816 and operated Mount Locust as a stand until around 1842. From 1800 to 1820, traffic along the Natchez Trace was at its peak. The opening of the Military Road from Florence, Alabama, to Columbus, Mississippi, in 1820 and the Robinson Road from Columbus to Jackson in 1834 diverted mail traffic from the upper Trace and left the Jackson to Natchez segment as the only remaining portion of the Trace in official use.

After 1825, when the Jefferson County seat was moved from Greenville to Fayette, that part of the Old Trace near Mount Locust became merely another road from Natchez to Jackson. As such, Mount Locust no longer catered to travelers along the Natchez Trace but rather to Natchezeans

who sought the solitude of a more rural setting. The 1838 Gwin and Daugherty map of Mississippi lists "Mrs. Ferguson's" as a stopping place on the Trace, verifying that the Ferguson house was used as a stand. No mention of Mount Locust has been found in any journals, diaries, or books of the preachers, circuit riders, or travelers in this area in the nineteenth century, nor was it advertised in any local extant newspapers from 1810 to 1830. Like other stands of the period, however, weary travelers simply came to the door and asked for accommodation (Kaye 1998, 3; Phelps 1941, 3; Phelps 1947, 4).

In 1832, Paulina Ferguson, who chose to go back to the Ferguson surname after her marriage to Chamberlain ended, purchased ninety-three acres of the plantation to the west of Mount Locust from the Laughman estate. Within the next decade, Paulina Ferguson and her sons erected a cotton gin on the new property. Like other plantations in the South, Mount Locust became increasingly dependent on the production of cotton as it quickly became the cash crop of Mississippi. This dependence on cotton was reflected in the number of enslaved workers she owned. The 1820 census lists twenty-six enslaved workers in Mrs. Ferguson's household. By 1830, the number had increased to forty-two enslaved workers, placing her in the planter class. According to her 1849 estate appraisal, she owned fifty-three enslaved workers, which were divided among her three surviving children after her death (Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 29-38; Carriere 1980, 13).

Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain Era at Mount Locust (1849-1854).

Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain inherited Mount Locust from his mother, Paulina Ferguson, in 1849. Even before her death, Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain lived at Mount Locust year-round and managed it and Liverpool Plantation, an adjacent property that he owned. Apparently, at this time Mount Locust was called Waterloo.

In 1834, Chamberlain wrote his brother Louis: "My cotton crop has turned out badly making 42 bales at Natchez and we might have 6 or 8 more." Thomas Jefferson and Louis sold land on credit and often had a hard time collecting the money in a timely manner. Thomas Jefferson wrote to

Louis in 1838 that Mr. McMurty "says he wants to pay that note of your very much and will pay it the first money he gets. He has not yet paid us one cent for his land, nor has Mr. Laughman either … times are Very Hard money Hard to get, Provisions high, Flour is $11 … Pork $30 per Barrell." His complaint followed the Panic of 1837 and the depression that followed. Cotton prices, which reached an all-time high for the antebellum period from 1835-37, plummeted and did not recover until the mid-1850s. Especially hard hit were newcomers to the region who had bought land on credit (Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 44).

Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain married Maybella Jane Duncan in 1844. They had three children, Pauline Chamberlain, Duncan Holt Chamberlain, and Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain II (fn: Maybella married Dr. Walter Wade after Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain's death in 1854. Maybella is mentioned in a plant list that her granddaughter sent to Superintendent Malcolm Gardner in 1957).

At the time of his death in 1854, Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain's estate was substantial. The main house contained five bedrooms and a parlor. The remainder of the estate included a kitchen and milk house; two ox wagons and a horse cart; iron, coal, and blacksmith tools; plows; a buggy and carriage; 48 head of sheep, 39 horses, 60 head of hogs, 12 yoke of oxen, 100 head of cattle, 31 mules; 98 enslaved workers; and various house furnishings. In 1853 and 1854, Chamberlain hired H. C. Lindsay as overseer "on my home place (Waterloo)" (Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 46).

Despite the size of the estate, Mount Locust remained a vernacular dwelling compared to the elegant town houses in nearby Natchez. In his travels through the frontier areas of the Old Southwest in the 1830s, John Holt Ingraham described such a lack of adornment as the norm:

> The original mode of life of most of the occupants, who, though now opulent, have arisen, with but few exceptions, from comparative obscurity in the world of dollars. Originally occupying log huts in the wilderness, their whole time and

> attention were engaged in the culture of cotton; and embellishment, either of their cabins or grounds, was wholly disregarded (Ingraham 1835, 101).

Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain II Era (1854-1929).

The estate of Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain contracted with J. F. Porter in 1856 "to oversee and work on the Liverpool plantation of said deceased and all the negroes thereon for that year to take good care of all the stock thereon as well as said negroes in sickness and in health" (Charles H. Peterson to Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway, February 21, 1956, NATR Archives).

A one-third interest in Mount Locust was left to each of the three children, Thomas Jefferson II, Duncan Holt, and Pauline Chamberlain.

The 1860 slave census for Jefferson County shows Mr. T. Chamberlain with 72 enslaved workers. The census also indicates that there were 16 enslaved houses (Young 1999, 5).

Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain II was married to Johnnie Chamberlain (1868-1951). They had eight children.

In 1903, Pauline Chamberlain was placed in a mental hospital where she remained until her death in 1925. At this time, Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain II and his wife Johnnie C. Chamberlain took deed to the property, which they were occupying as their homestead. Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain and her children continued to live at Mount Locust after the death of Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain in 1929. In 1934, all the surviving children executed a deed conveying all of the interest in the property to their mother. Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain continued to reside at Mt. Locust until its acquisition by the NPS in 1937 (Ferguson Family, Wills and Estate Documents, NATR Archives).

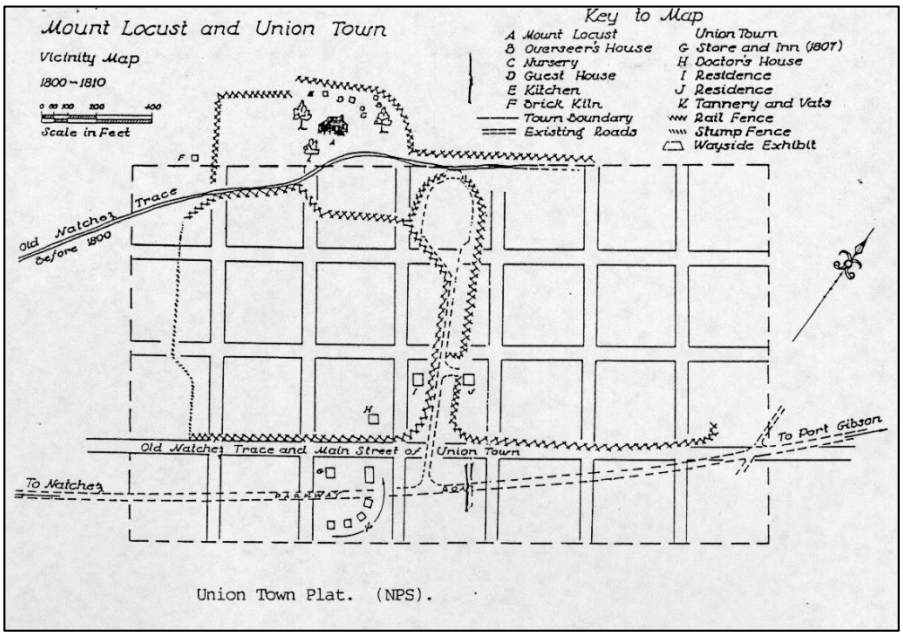


Fig 13. Map of Uniontown. (NPS Image)



Fig 14. Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

7 – Commemoration of the Natchez Trace, 1905-1933

Physical History Narrative

In 1905, Mrs. Egbert Jones and the Mississippi Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began a grassroots effort to place granite markers in every county through which the historic Natchez Trace ran. Little was done until 1908, when the marker program became an official project of the society. In 1909, they erected a stone monument in Natchez overlooking the Mississippi River. Over the next twenty-five years, similar monuments were placed in almost every county through which the Natchez Trace passed in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. This effort generated widespread interest in the historic Natchez Trace (Phelps 1965-76, II-1).

A regional Good Roads movement, championed by the Natchez Chamber of Commerce in 1916, continued the effort of the Mississippi DAR to commemorate the historic Natchez Trace as a highway for modern automobile use. The new organization was stymied by State Highway Commissions, which were not convinced that a road should be improved just to commemorate its history when there was not enough money to build trunk highways. Moreover, America's eventual entry into World War I and the economic depression that followed the war delayed any success at securing funding for such a venture (Phelps 1965-76, II-2).

In 1933, Mississippi Congressman Jeff Busby began a campaign to gather support for legislation to survey and pave the historic Natchez Trace. The Natchez Trace Military Highway Association, later reorganized as the Natchez Trace Association, was created in 1934 as an advocacy group for the memorialization of the Natchez Trace and the construction of a parkway along its route.

In February 1934, assured of popular support from Alabama and Tennessee, Congressman Bubsy introduced two bills regarding the Natchez Trace: one for a survey of the Old Trace and the second an appropriation for its subsequent construction. Similar legislation was introduced into the Senate by Senator Hubert D. Stephens of Mississippi (Phelps 1965-76, III-1-3; HAER No. MS-15, 20-23).

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

8 – Creation of the Natchez Trace Parkway, 1934-Present

Physical History Narrative

The vision to commemorate the historic Natchez Trace through a national parkway began in 1934, when Congress appropriated $50,000 for a survey. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, however, reported the measure to be "not in accord" with President Roosevelt's program and recommended a veto. After discussions with the congressional delegations from Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, the president agreed to withhold his veto and directed the survey be financed by an allotment from the 1935 National Park Service (NPS) Roads and Trails appropriation. Under this authority, the old road was located and flagged in its entire length, in as near as practicable to its original route. Two reports were prepared and submitted to Washington, one covering the history of the road and the methods followed in locating the Old Trace and the other discussing the possible route of the parkway and preliminary cost estimates (Phelps 1965-76, III-3-4, V-1).

The most useful information in locating the Old Trace came from original township maps based on surveys made by the General Land Office from 1810 to 1834 in Alabama and Mississippi. Supplemented by field notes, these maps provided sufficient data to show a road extending from Natchez through Mississippi and Alabama to the southern Tennessee line. No such maps existed in Tennessee, so the location from the Tennessee line to Nashville was largely based on oral tradition. Early research turned up a map of the Natchez Trace prepared by General Wilkinson, but it proved impossible to identify the road and its meandering course over a distance of 450 miles using this map (Phelps 1965-76, V-1, VII-2).

In the Old Natchez District, where "metes and bounds" surveys were used before township lines were surveyed, a road or series of roads was identified and then checked on the ground. Where township plats were available, it was possible to identify local roads as part of the Old Trace. In some cases, abandoned road traces were used to identify the route. Where all evidence had disappeared, a determination was made of the most likely route (Phelps 1965-76, V-1, VII-2).

The survey revealed that it was impossible to identify a definitive old Natchez Trace, as there were at least three old trails, each of which with some validity might be regarded as the correct road. Nonetheless, after an immense amount of information had been assembled, Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) engineers, advised by NPS historians, flagged the approximate route and entered the results onto a map (Phelps 1965-76, V-2).

On March 14, 1935, a group of experts inspected the project and recommended a policy on location and development if construction of the parkway should be authorized. The planners included Hillory O. Tolson, Thomas C. Vint, Verne E. Chatelain, Edward S. Zimmer, Olaf T. Hagen, and Randall B. Truett of the NPS, Harold J. Spellman and Frank L. Brownell of the BPR, and Harvard professor and city planner John Nolen. The major goal was not to preserve or restore the historic Natchez Trace but to memorialize it with a new parkway (Phelps 1965-76, V-2).

In 1935, a Public Works Administration project with a $1.5 million budget was set up to initiate the construction of the parkway in Mississippi. The funding included a survey and the establishment of a rough grade and minor drainage structures on a limited section of the route. The parkway was divided into more than fifty construction sections. Sections situated in Tennessee were designated on official maps with the number “1,” in Alabama with the number “2,” and in Mississippi with the number “3.”

In 1937, Congress appropriated another $1.5 million for the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 1938, Public Law 75-530 established the Natchez Trace Parkway and assigned its administration to the NPS with a direct appropriation of $1.5 million. Further appropriations were made in 1939, 1940, and 1941 totaling $3,550,000. Land was acquired by the Highway Departments of the three cooperating states (Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee), and title was then transferred to the Federal Government. In Mississippi, the funds were concentrated between Jackson and Tupelo, with the exception of the twelve miles of section 3-W near Natchez (1938 Annual Narrative, NATR Archives; Gardner, 1957; Phelps 1965-76, IX-3).

Construction of the parkway road by private contract, under supervision of the NPS and the BPR, began in the summer of 1937, and in the four years through 1941, 105 miles were graded. Construction was halted by World War II in 1941 and resumed in the fall of 1947. During the interim, a change in the basic design of the road occurred. Originally, it was planned to construct grade separations at railroads and major highways only, with minor roads crossing at grade. The new plan called for eventual grade separation of all public road crossings (Phelps 1965-76, IX-3).

Construction through 1952 consisted of grading, drainage, gravel base, bridges, and bituminous paving. Maintenance of paved sections was assumed by the NPS. In the period 1935-53, approximately $17.2 million had been appropriated for surveys and construction. An official BPR report in 1956 conceded that funding interruptions plagued parkway progress from the beginning. Of the 450 miles included in the project, only 114 miles were fully completed, including 80 miles in Mississippi, 6 miles in Alabama, and 28 miles in Tennessee. A number of other sections were in various stages of completion, but the rights-of-ways had not even been acquired for some sections. This rather bleak situation reflected a larger NPS dilemma nationwide, for which Director Conrad Wirth proposed a monumental ten-year effort called Mission 66.

An ambitious Mission 66 program called for recreational and park related facilities, as well as continued progress in completing the parkway. By the end of 1966, a total of 269 miles of paved parkway was complete at a total cost of $77 million, including numerous picnic areas, comfort stations, campgrounds, roadside exhibits, and administrative/service buildings. Mount Locust was opened to the public in 1957, and the Tupelo Visitor Center opened in 1962. Another major accomplishment was the completion of the mile-long Tennessee River Bridge in 1962 (Phelps 1965-76, IX-4-6; HAER, No. MS-15, 71-74).

After 1966, the pace of construction slowed down considerably. By the end of 1975, 319 miles of parkway had been completed at an approximate cost of $86 million. $30 million was appropriated in 1977 for new construction and overlay of any existing parkway road in need of

resurfacing, the largest paving project ever undertaken by the NPS. In 1979, Congress appropriated $19 million for construction and planning in FY 1979 with an additional $24 million funded for FY 1980. By 1987, the parkway was complete except for the two terminus sections into Natchez and Nashville (Phelps 1965-76, IX 6-8). In May 2005, a 15-mile section in Jackson and an 8-mile southern terminus section in Natchez completed the Natchez Trace Parkway.



Fig 15. Old Trace, Jefferson County, 1930s. (NATR archives)



Fig 16. Natchez Trace Parkway, Section 30, 1947. (NATR archives)

Sequence Number and Physical History Time Period

9 – National Park Service Era at Mount Locust, 1937-Present

Physical History Narrative

In 1937, the NPS acquired the Mount Locust property. The NPS hoped to use the house, the sole surviving structure that existed during the peak years of travel on the Natchez Trace, as an interpretive feature of the parkway. At the time of its acquisition, the house was occupied by Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain and some of her children.

Preliminary development plans were submitted to Washington in 1938. In order to protect the property pending development, Mrs. Chamberlain's youngest son, Bill, was employed as a caretaker and later became the first park ranger in the Natchez District. An archeological survey was needed to determine the exact location of all the original plantation buildings. Final development plans would not be drawn up until the archeology was completed (1938 Annual Narrative, NATR Archives).

Archeological studies began in 1940, confirming the location of some of the outbuildings and disproving legends that a Spanish fort once stood on the site or that the house stood on a Native American mound. These investigations, however, failed to reveal any specific architectural information about any of the buildings. The United States' entry into World War II in 1941 put further efforts on the back burner (1941 Annual Narrative, NATR Archives).

Bill Chamberlain continued to occupy the house until 1944. Although occupied, the house had been sadly neglected for many years. The NPS decided that a temporary stabilization treatment was needed until a decision was made about the structure's ultimate treatment. A coat of tar paper was attached to the exterior and essential repairs were made to keep the structure from falling down. A decision as to whether the structure should be rehabilitated was not expected until the end of World War II (August 1944 Monthly Narrative Report; Completion Report, December 1958, NATR Archives (also found in Kaye Section J)).

After the war, major changes occurred in the proposed interpretive program of the Natchez Trace Parkway and a new Master Plan was developed. The history of Mount Locust was revisited at this time. When a draft of the new Master Plan was ready in 1947, however, it did not include plans for Mount Locust. Measured drawings of the house were completed in 1947 (1946 Annual Narrative; Melvin C. Josephson to Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway, June 25, 1947; October 1953 Monthly Narrative, NATR Archives).

Further development of the site as a house museum was delayed until 1954, when Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect of the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC) was assigned to oversee the stabilization project, with architect Henry A. Judd providing day to day supervision. At this time, the house was completely disassembled in order to trace the evolution of the house from original one-room structure to rambling nine-room structure. These investigations showed that certain additions had been made to the original structure very early and that it had been radically changed and enlarged around 1820 and again in the 1840s (1958 Completion Report, 2).

On March 8, 1955, Peterson presented the findings at a meeting held in Philadelphia to representatives from the Director's Office, the Eastern Office of Design and Construction, and the Region 1 Regional Office. A decision was reached at this meeting to restore Mount Locust to its condition in 1820, a date that corresponded with the height of travel on the Natchez Trace. The house restoration was completed in April 1956. The dedication of Mount Locust occurred on February 15, 1957 (1958 Completion Report, 3; May 1955 Monthly Narrative, NATR Archives).

Consultant Worth Bailey completed a furnishings plan for the house in November 1956. A local cabinet maker reproduced many of the larger items. Smaller items were donated or acquired from a number of people in Natchez (1958 Completion Report, 5).

An exhibit shelter with comfort station was completed in 1957. Facilities constructed related to Park maintenance and administration included a shop and equipment storage building, pump house, employee residence, and oil and paint storage building.

In the early 1970s, living-history demonstrations were included in the interpretive program at Mount Locust. Four living-history interpreters— two blacksmiths and a couple portraying the Mount Locust innkeepers— carried out activities typical of daily life on the Natchez Trace in 1815. Living history was discontinued at some point in the 1980s.

The addition of a handicapped restroom occurred in 1990, and the enclosure of the exhibit shelter as a visitor contact station occurred in 1993. A trail accessibility plan was implemented in 2002.



Fig 17. Mount Locust, 1938. (NPS image)



Fig 18. Mount Locust, 1956. (NPS image)



Fig 19. Dedication, 1957. (NATR archives)



Fig 20. Living history at Mount Locust, 1978. (NATR archives)



Fig 21. Blacksmith Ned Weathersby, 1973. (NATR archives)

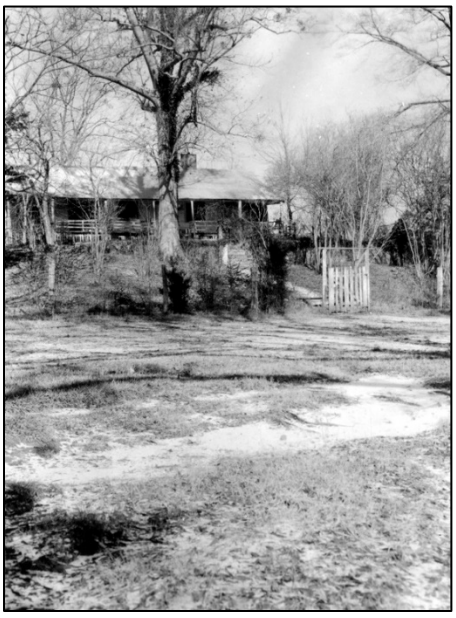


Fig 22. View of Old Trace in front of house. (NATR archives)

Chapter 7: Uses

Functions and Uses

Seq. No. (R)	Major Category (R)	Category (R)	Use/ Function (R, if exists)	Historic (Yes/No)	Current (Yes/No)	Primary (Yes/No)
1	Domestic	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	Yes
2	Domestic	Hotel (Boarding House)	Lodge (Inn, Cabin)	Yes	No	Yes
3	Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)		Yes	No	Yes
4	Recreation	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Museum (Exhibition Hall) - Other	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access

Public Access

Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative

Mount Locust is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays throughout the year except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Associated Ethnographic Groups

Seq. No. (R)	Ethnographic Group [Select from drop down pick list.]	Current (Yes/No)	Historic (Yes/No)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ethnographic Study Status:

N/A

Ethnographic Narrative:

N/A

Chapter 8: Analysis & Evaluation

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

The Mount Locust landscape today most closely approximates the character present by the end of the second identified period of significance—1960—as opposed to the antebellum period. By 1960, the house had been restored to its c.1820 appearance and the NPS had constructed a Visitor Contact Station, administration and maintenance buildings, and pedestrian walkways. They additionally implemented a 1958 planting plan influenced by observations by longtime resident Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain. Changes have continued to be made to the property since 1960, including the reroofing of some of the NPS buildings, the enclosures of portions of those buildings, the retrofitting of trails to become ADA accessible, and replaced windows and roof following Hurricane Katrina.

Several elements associated with the Mount Locust landscape during the antebellum period are missing today and little is known about their historic character. These elements include historic outbuildings and the fields and gardens that supported the landscape. The location of many outbuildings has been identified through archaeology, but some, including the dwellings of the enslaved workers have not been found.

Otherwise, many of the historic qualities and characteristics of the historic landscape remain present, including the Mount Locust dwelling house, its central location in the landscape, some of the historic brick walkways around the house, the Old Natchez Trace and the house's relationship to it, specimen trees, visitor and administration buildings from the late 1950s, and two cemeteries.

INTEGRITY

The effort to determine a landscape's significance according to National Register criteria focuses on seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The persistence of these qualities as they apply to the landscape determines whether

the landscape retains enough of its important features to convey its historically significant appearance or associations.

Location: the place where the historic event occurred.
The location of Mount Locust adjacent to the historic Natchez Trace has remained constant and is a character-defining feature of the historic landscape.

Setting: the physical environment of a historic property.
Because the house was restored to a period of 1820, the NPS removed the garden retaining wall that dated to the 1840s and flattened out the hill on which the house sits. Altering the topography of the site for which Mount Locust was named reduced integrity of setting.

The Chamberlain Family Cemetery and the cemetery for enslaved workers retain integrity of setting.

The site overall retains integrity of setting. All views and vistas have been preserved, which is a character-defining feature of the historic landscape.

Design: the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
Great care was taken to return the house to its 1820 configuration, preserving integrity of design. The rectilinear system of brick walkways encircling the house was also restored.

What has been lost is the spatial arrangement of the outbuildings around the dwelling house. The removal of the garden retaining wall in the 1950s further reduced integrity of design. Two brick cisterns remain as the only other above-ground structures.

The design of the grape arbor west of the house dates to 1958, as does that of the planting plan.

Materials: the physical elements that were used to construct the features of the landscape.

The Mount Locust cultural landscape retains a high degree of material integrity. When the house was restored in 1956, the NPS found that mostly upland forest lumber, such as yellow poplar, pine, cedar, oak, sassafras, and pecan, made up a large part of the old framework. Materials were replaced in kind as needed. Care was taken to find lumber that matched the original materials. The brick walkways were restored using old bricks of the period. The post-and-rail and Virginia fences and the grape arbor were constructed of oak and pine.

Several large specimen trees survive from the nineteenth century, including oaks, black walnuts, southern magnolias, and one honey locust. The 1958 planting plan used trees and shrubs that family members recalled, as well as native plants that were favorites in the southern landscape. Many of the small trees and shrubs planted in 1958 have not survived or are in poor condition.

Workmanship: the qualities of the ways in which landscape features have been fashioned and constructed for both functional and decorative purposes.
Mount Locust is a frame house and therefore more substantial than the log cabin typical of the American frontier. The removal of work dating from the 1840s affects integrity of workmanship. When the house was restored in 1956, a decision was made to remove additions made after 1820, the end of the period of significance for its association with the Natchez Trace.

The NPS hired Gordon Whittington, a Natchez carpenter with considerable experience in restoration work. A local blacksmith reproduced most of the missing hardware. Supervising the project were two men who eventually became synonymous with historic architecture within the NPS: Charles E. Peterson and Henry A. Judd.

Feeling: a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
The Mount Locust cultural landscape retains a high degree of feeling. The dwelling house has been carefully restored to a period of c. 1820. The open character of the surrounding fields and the lack of visual intrusion also contribute to integrity of feeling. Large specimen trees throughout the landscape have survived since the nineteenth century.

Association: the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

The Mount Locust cultural landscape retains a high degree of association. Its location along the Natchez Trace during the height of travel in the 1820s has been preserved as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Mount Locust's association with the Ferguson-Chamberlain family, the only owners of the property prior to its acquisition by the NPS, is preserved in the dwelling house and the Chamberlain Family Cemetery. NPS ranger Eric Chamberlain provides a vital link with the Chamberlain family history.

Mount Locust's association with the enslaved workers on the plantation is preserved in the African-American cemetery, where enslaved workers appear to be buried as families.

Summary

The dwelling house is the centerpiece of the Mount Locust cultural landscape. It is the only surviving building of the property known as Mount Locust, which at one time operated both as a small plantation and as an inn for travelers along the Natchez Trace. The house has been restored to a period of c. 1820, which corresponds with the height of travel along the historic Natchez Trace. The integrity of the house remains high for location, design, materials, feeling, and association.

Integrity of location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association remains high for the site overall. Even with the loss of the spatial relationships of the house and the outbuildings, Mount Locust has not lost its sense of time and place along the historic Natchez Trace.

Landscape Characteristics and Features

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation.

Summary:

The Mississippi Delta is a deep valley eroded by the Mississippi River during the Pleistocene, when the sea level was 200 feet below its present stand. After the Ice Age, as the sea level rose, the river filled this old valley with alluvium. At the time of settlement, the Delta was an area of alluvial soils occupying a valley between higher terraces to the east and west. The soils were subject to the annual overflow of the Mississippi River and its many tributaries. Mount Locust's location along Coles Creek, a small lower Mississippi River tributary, made it prime agricultural land (Lower Mississippi Delta Region, 45).

Across western Mississippi and elsewhere, loess bluffs were formed when wind transported and deposited silts from massive dust storms that occurred at the close of the Pleistocene (Ice Age). These steep bluffs are highest on the western edges (90-100 feet or more) and become gradually lower traveling eastward away from the bluffs. Highly erodible, the loess region is characterized by a steep and deeply dissected topography and is typical of the local topography at Mount Locust (Faulkner "Physiognomy of Mississippi: Natural Vegetation").

The Mount Locust landscape currently consists of mixed mesophytic hardwood forests, hardwood slope forests, and oak-hickory forests. Mixed mesophytic hardwood forests are found mainly on the loess bluffs and on slopes and ravines of areas highly dissected by streams and erosion. The soils are typically fertile and evenly moist. The vegetation is characterized by: beech (*Fagus grandiflora*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), big-leaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), pyramid magnolia (*Magnolia pyramidata*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*). The understory may include:

flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), and eastern hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*).

Hardwood slope forests are mixed hardwood communities that may also include occasional pines. These communities are found along ridges and slopes above bottomlands intersecting pinelands. These areas are not as diverse as mixed mesophytic forests. Dominant trees include beech, southern magnolia, water oak (*Quercus nigra*), cherrybark oak (*Quercus falcata var. padodifolia*), tulip poplar, and sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*). Typical pines might include spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*).

Oak-hickory forests are found in dry to moderately moist uplands. The most abundant tree species include mockernut hickory, post oak (*Quercus stellata*), white oak, southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), and black oak (*Quercus velutina*) (Samuel P. Faulkner, "Physiognomy of Mississippi: Natural Vegetation," http://www.marshdoc.com/physiognomy/physiognomy.html).

Fauna vary with the age and stocking of timber stands, percent of deciduous trees, proximity to openings, and presence of bottomland forest types. White-tailed deer and cottontail rabbits are widespread. The fox squirrel is common among deciduous trees on uplands. Gray squirrels live along intersecting drainages. Raccoon and fox inhabit the whole region and are hunted in many areas. Among mammals frequently encountered in the western part of this province is the nine-banded armadillo.

The eastern wild turkey, bobwhite, and mourning dove are widespread. Of the twenty-odd bird species in mature forests, the most common are the pine warbler, cardinal, summer tanager, Carolina wren, ruby-throated hummingbird, blue jay, hooded warbler, eastern towhee, and tufted titmouse. The red-cockaded woodpecker is an endangered species.

Forest snakes include cottonmouth moccasin, copperhead, rough green snake, rat snake, coachwhip, and speckled kingsnake. French and glass lizards are also found, as is the slimy salamander (*Lower Mississippi Delta Region*, 50).

Coles Creek. Coles Creek has been host to human settlement since c.600 CE, and the current location of the Chamberlain Family Cemetery is believed to have been the site of a prehistoric Coles Creek hamlet. Coles Creek is a small lower Mississippi River tributary, 80 km. in length, just to the north of the Homochitto River. The tributary would have been considered in the siting of Mount Locust, as the creek made the surrounding land fertile for agricultural use. This natural feature remains in place today and contributes to the significance of the historic landscape.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name: Coles Creek

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: N/A

Longitude: N/A

CRIS-HS Resource name: N/A

CRIS-HS Resource ID: N/A

FMSS Record Type: N/A

FMSS Record Number: N/A

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: N/A

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: N/A

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

Summary:

There is no written documentation as to the spatial organization of the Mount Locust site. Chamberlain family descendants described a two-story, four-room log house called Sleepy Hollow located directly behind the house, which was used as a guest house. An archeological report from 1941 showed that a building once stood at this location, but it was not possible to trace the foundation lines (Phelps 1941, 29). Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain, who lived at Mount

Locust from 1887 to 1937, also described the arrangement of the site as having a detached kitchen, a nursery for the children of enslaved workers working in the fields, an overseer's house, enslaved cabins, and barns and storehouses.

An undated note, probably part of an overseer's contract, called for the building of "eight negroe quarters, overseers house and nigger nursery." It also called for "making and repairing all necessary fences whether they intersect the plantation or are to be built on the dividing lines between the Liverpool and Waterloo places together and adjoining plantations" (Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 89).

A site plan generated from Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain's description of the property shows a layout that would have been typical for a plantation of this size. A work yard with a detached kitchen, guest house, nursery for children of enslaved workers, and overseer's cabin was in back of the dwelling house. The enslaved cabins and other outbuildings were located farther away from the house. The family also maintained that a system of brick walks and a brick retaining wall were built during the 1830s and 1840s (Phelps 1947, 2; personal communication Rick Chamberlain).

A landscape of work was one of the earliest and most basic forms of historic residential landscape architecture in the South. It functioned primarily to accommodate the essential activities of rural living: gardening, slaughtering, cooking and other kinds of food processing, washing and laundering, storage, etc. (GA Historic Preservation Division 1991, I-39).

Major components included the main house, outbuildings, outdoor activity areas, a well, a small kitchen garden in a side or rear yard, enslaved quarters, agricultural fields and woodlots, and sometimes a small orchard. These components were typically clustered and linked by a network of paths, fences, and functional site lines arranged according to a simple but not always rigid geometry of straight lines and rectangles. Such a geometric layout helped bring a sense of order to a landscape surrounded by wilderness.

The spatial organization often included a straight path from the road through the front yard to the front door, which extended through the central hallway of the house to a rear porch and the back yard. Porches, both front and rear, and trees in the front and back yards provided shade for the house and outdoor activities (GA Historic Preservation Division 1991, I-39).

Twentieth-century Spatial Patterns. Historic photographs from the 1920s show some of the landscape features that have been lost. A herringbone front walk was flanked with brick-edged beds, and paling fences enclosed the northeast side of the garden. A brick retaining wall with decorative urns was located at the foot of the steps leading up to the front porch. Portions of the brick wall were covered in ivy, and vines grew on the front porch. A frame garage was located halfway between the present visitor contact station and the house. In 1950, when the house was boarded up and covered in tar paper, one family member described Mount Locust as the "secret garden," writing on the back of a photograph that she had to climb over a locked gate to get in.

Rick Chamberlain remembered that the field southwest of the dwelling house was fenced and used to graze horses during his father's time. He knew of a stable and chicken house in the field at different times, and his grandmother kept a small vegetable garden there (Charles F. Lawson to Director, Southeast Archeological Center, June 27, 2003; Rick Chamberlain is the son of Bill Chamberlain, caretaker of Mount Locust in the 1930s).

National Park Service Administration (1937- Present). Following the National Park Service's acquisition in 1937, Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain provided the information for the 1941 site plan of Mount Locust. It was typical of the cluster arrangement that would have been found for a plantation of this size, including detached kitchen, overseer's cabin, enslaved cabins, barns, fields, etc.

An early Development Plan from 1943 shows the house and outbuilding locations connected by pathways as described by Mrs. Chamberlain and verified by archeology in 1941. The Chamberlain Family Cemetery is shown enclosed by a fence. The site would be accessed by car from the Natchez Trace Parkway. This preliminary plan included a parking area southeast of the

old Natchez Trace and a concession area adjacent to the Natchez Trace Parkway (604/2281, Development Plan, Mound Plantation, April 1943, Natchez Trace archives).

A General Development Plan prepared in 1954 moved the parking area further east and added a maintenance facility and employee residence. Working drawings from 1956 show several landscape features that were later eliminated. An Herb Garden enclosed by a paling fence was proposed at the south end of the formal garden. A grape arbor and another paling fence were originally planned for the east side of the house. One possible reason for the placement of an herb garden in this area is that it coincides with the description given by Johnnie Irene Chamberlain of the location of Paulina Chamberlain's "own special herb and flower garden" (604/3000, Development Plan, Ferguson Place, December 1954, Technical Information Center (TIC); 604/2786, Garden & Walks Development Plan, Natchez Trace archives).

The final version of the plan was approved in 1957 and included a formal garden space on the west side of the main house enclosed by a post-and-rail fence, foot trails out to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery and outbuilding locations but no other development near these archeological sites. A 1958 Planting, Walks, and Development Plan (2888) finalized the layout of these spaces, with the formal garden design replaced by a grape arbor and brick seat wall. Access to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery was not permitted, but a loop trail to the brick kiln was included in the final scheme. At this time, the Chamberlain Family Cemetery was completely overgrown.

Visitor and administrative services remained southeast of the old Natchez Trace and included a thirty-car parking area, visitor contact station, maintenance facility, and employee residence. Virginia worm fencing enclosed the perimeter areas of the site. An area south of the parking lot would be leased for row crops and hay (604/3000E, Development Plan – Mount Locust, January 1957; 604/2888, Planting, Walks & Dev. Plan, February 1958, TIC).

A restoration plan for the house was approved in 1955. Completion of the work, including the brick walks around the house, occurred in March 1956. Other site work included clearing a portion of the Natchez Trace near the property for an asphalt-stabilized trail and leveling the

terracing in front of the house (604/3003A, Mount Locust Restoration, May 1955, TIC; Kaye, Section J).

The staking of the sewerage system and approach road and the installation of the well occurred in December 1955. In March 1956, plans for an interpretive shelter with comfort station, shop and equipment storage building, pump house, and employee residence were approved, and studies were underway on fencing layout. By March 1957, the maintenance area, employee residence, and interpretive shelter were completed. A chain link fence enclosed the maintenance area (Monthly Superintendent's Narratives, NATR Archives).

The installation of 6,465 feet of rail fence occurred in 1957-58. Plans were completed for an entrance gate and garden fencing. A plan was also prepared for a walk three to four feet wide leading up a gentle grade from the Natchez Trace to the front steps of the main house (604/2889, Mount Locust Steps and Ramps, February 1958, TIC; March and December 1956 Monthly Narratives, March 1957 ad June 1957 Progress Reports, NATR Archives).

Additions to the maintenance area occurred in 1960 (oil and paint storage building) and in 1985 (equipment storage building). In 1974, a blacksmith shop was constructed near the grape arbor. It was taken down at some point before 1980 when blacksmithing was no longer included in the living history demonstrations (Completion Report, December 9, 1960; Chief of Maintenance to Superintendent, February 6, 1985; Engineer's Files NATR; personal communication Rick Chamberlain).

The restoration of the historic approach to Mount Locust occurred in 1978. Originally, brick steps were part of a retaining wall that was taken out in the 1950s (Administrative History, X-4 (7)). In 1990, a unisex handicapped accessible bathroom was added to the comfort station. In 1993, the interpretive shelter was enclosed as an information station and bookstore.

Today, the Mount Locust site is accessed from the Natchez Trace Parkway by an entrance drive, which leads to a thirty-car parking area and visitor contact station. A service road east of the

entrance drive leads to the maintenance area and ranger's office. From the visitor contact station and parking area, a pedestrian trail along the Old Natchez Trace leads west to the house and grounds.

A series of pedestrian paths connects the rear work yard with two cemeteries, the grape arbor, and the brick kiln foundation.

The locations of a number of outbuildings described by family members as clustered north and northwest of the house were identified by archeology in 1941. These include a kitchen, overseer's house, guest house, and brick kiln (Archeology conducted in 2002 found no definitive evidence that a foundation excavated was the kitchen).

Dwelling house as the centerpiece of the Mount Locust landscape. The dwelling house is the centerpiece of the Mount Locust landscape. Except for two cisterns, it is the only extant above-ground structure that survives from the eighteenth century.

Historically, the Mount Locust landscape was based on a pattern of work spaces and outbuildings connected by a system of brick walks. A kitchen, guest house, nursery for children of enslaved workers, cisterns, and overseer's house were clustered near the dwelling house. Barns and other farm buildings and the enslaved quarters were sited north of the work yard. A brick kiln operated southwest of the house. The dwelling house thus served as an anchor for the various outbuildings, structures, yards, and fields surrounding it. Buildings and structures with a more domestic purpose would have been clustered close to the house, while other outbuildings and spaces with more agricultural and industrial uses would have been located farther from the main house. Although most of the outbuildings and structures no longer have any above-ground remnants, the dwelling house still stands in a central location on the landscape, making this a contributing landscape feature.

Location of Mount Locust adjacent to historic Natchez Trace. Determining the exact location of the Natchez Trace near Mount Locust proved to be problematic. A segment of the Natchez Trace

that had been flagged when the area was surveyed for parkway construction did not coincide with the location of the "path" shown on the 1785 plat. Since the alignment of the Old Trace was known to have shifted over the years, it was suggested that the road may have changed at some point after 1785 to accommodate travelers, particularly if Mount Locust was used as an inn (Claude A. Wagner, Jr. to Robert E. Smith, March 2, 1940, NATR Archives).

The location of the Natchez Trace nearest the house was identified as running closely parallel to it, about eighty-eight feet southwest of the front porch. This portion of the Old Trace was restored for use as a pedestrian trail in the 1950s. It was determined that other portions of the Old Trace in the area were obliterated during construction of the parkway road (Phelps 1955; Malcom Gardner to Chief, EODC, April 26, 1955; Resource Management Plan, 7).

Its location adjacent to the Natchez Trace brought travelers to Mount Locust seeking shelter and is a character-defining feature of the historic landscape. The portion of the Old Trace nearest the house is still extant, and its relationship to the location to the house is a contributing feature to the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Clustering of NPS buildings and structures to the east of the dwelling house. Visitor and administrative services were constructed from 1977-1960 southeast of the old Natchez Trace and east of the dwelling house and included a thirty-car parking area, visitor contact station, maintenance facility, and employee residence. The distance of these buildings and structures from the dwelling house and a buffer of trees between them allows the viewshed of the dwelling house to be uninterrupted by more modern construction. The location and clustering of these buildings thus preserves integrity of setting to the c.1779 to 1820 period of significance and is a contributing landscape feature.

Field Patterns. According to William Ferguson's estate inventory in 1801, the farm known as Mount Locust consisted of 713 acres. By 1826, the property had increased to 879 acres. In this early period before cotton prices began to rise in 1824, it is possible that more corn than cotton

was planted. No crops other than cotton, corn, cowpeas, sweet potatoes, wheat, and rice were raised in Mississippi commercially before 1837 (Moore 1971, 61).

The 1850 agricultural schedules of the census records document that Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain owned 350 acres of improved land and 250 acres of unimproved land. The Mount Locust property was valued at $6,000, with farm machinery valued at $250 and livestock valued at $3,600. The plantation produced 2,600 bushels of Indian corn, 75 bales of cotton, 300 pounds of wool, 1,500 bushels of peas and beans, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 500 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 1,000 pounds of butter. There were thirty-five enslaved workers (Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 30-38).

Joseph Holt Ingraham's travel accounts into antebellum Mississippi in the 1830s relate a common neglect of the grounds around dwelling houses. He commented that "the grounds and scenery about it, with the exception of a paling enclosing a green yard, are suffered to remain in their pristine rudeness." One Mississippi planter responded to his suggestion that more landscaping was needed by pointing out that "these few acres yield me annually from ten to twelve bales of cotton; this would be too great a sacrifice for the mere gratification of the eye" (Carriere 1980, 3).

Historic field patterns are unknown but during the 1820s it is likely that crops like cotton and corn were planted right up to the house. In this early period before cotton prices began to rise in 1824, it is possible that more corn than cotton was planted. No crops other than cotton, corn, cowpeas, sweet potatoes, wheat, and rice were raised in Mississippi commercially before 1837. The open character of the fields around the house is a character-defining feature of the historic landscape. This open character of the fields remains and is a contributing landscape feature.

Feature Name: Dwelling house as the centerpiece of the Mount Locust landscape
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]
Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Location of Mount Locust adjacent to historic Natchez Trace

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Clustering of NPS buildings and structures to the east of the dwelling house

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Field Patterns

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

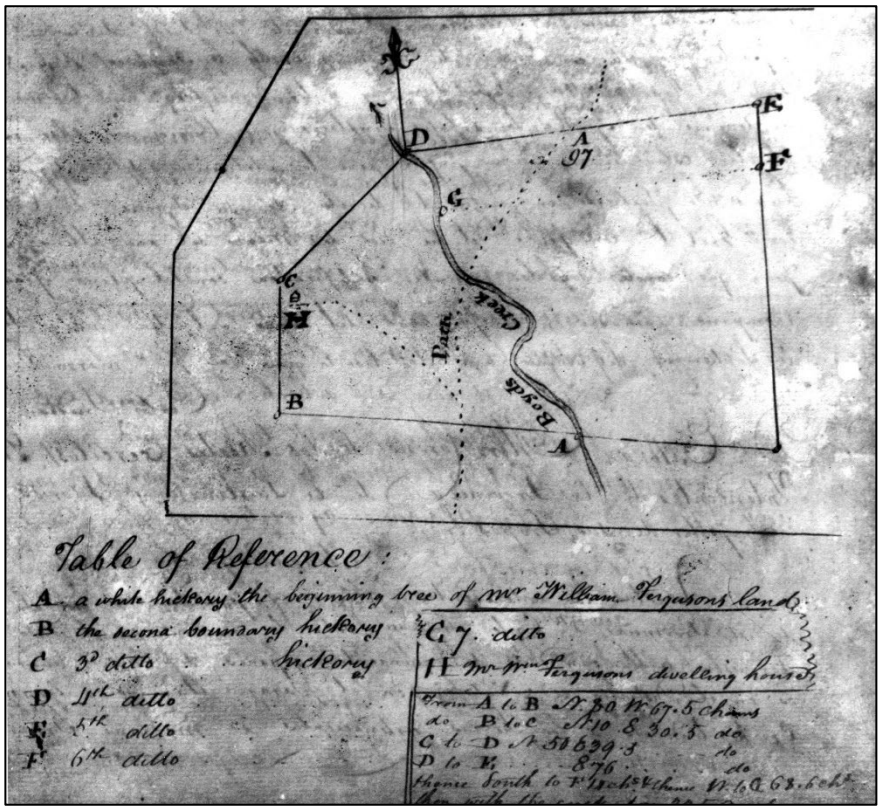


Fig 23. 1785 Vousdan survey. (NATR archives)

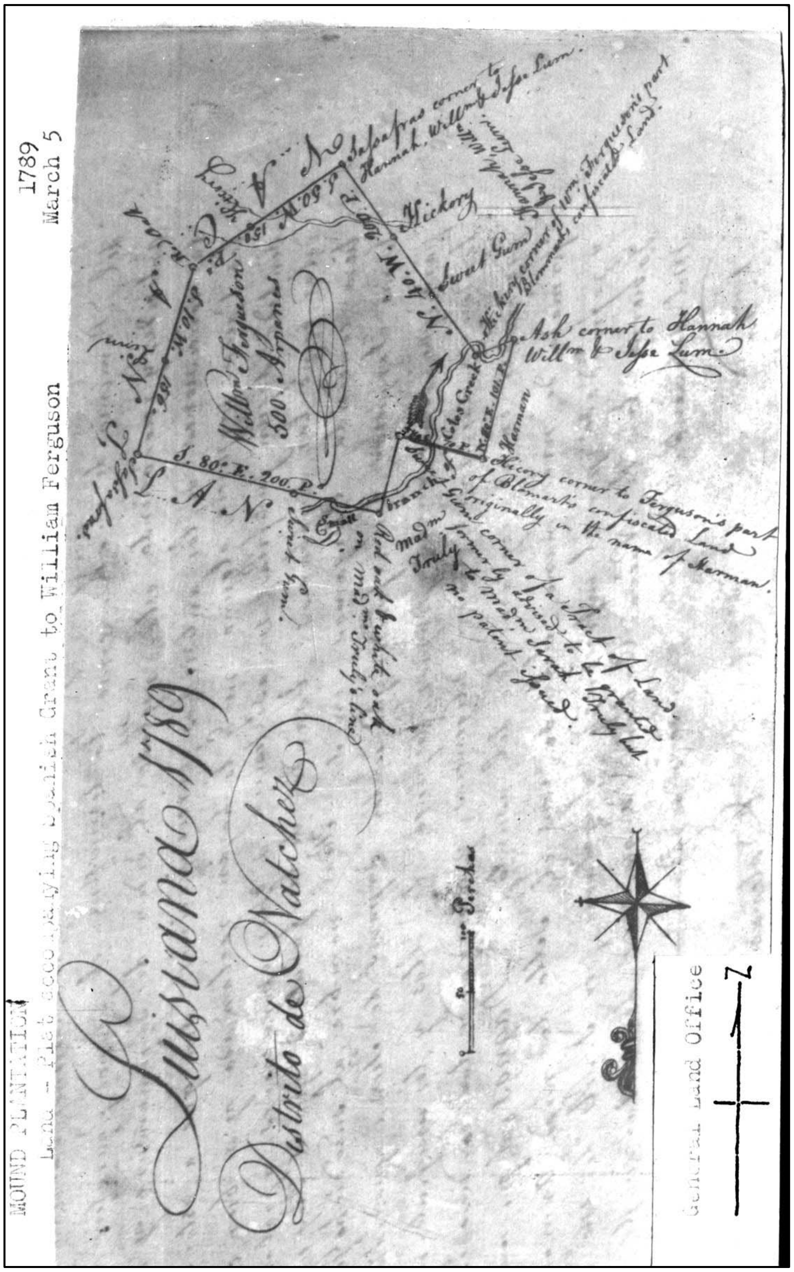


Fig 24. 1789 survey. (NATR Archives)

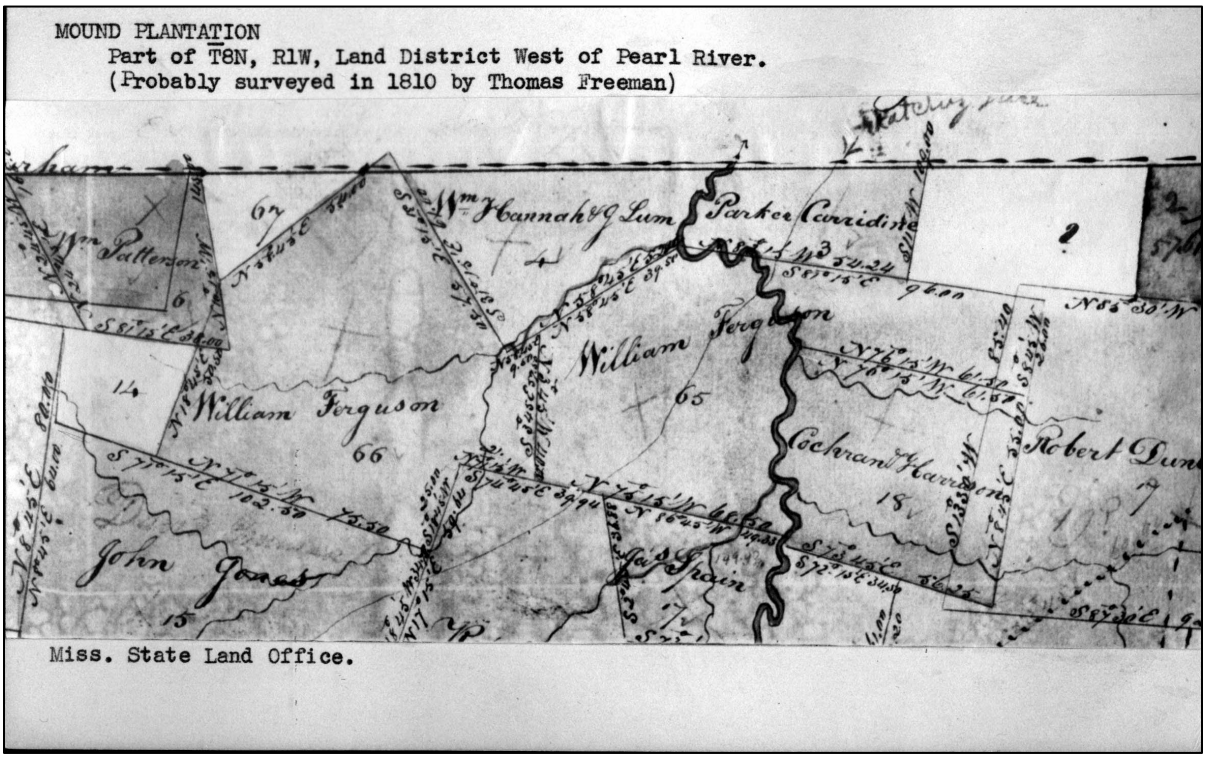


Fig 25. 1810 survey. (NATR archives)

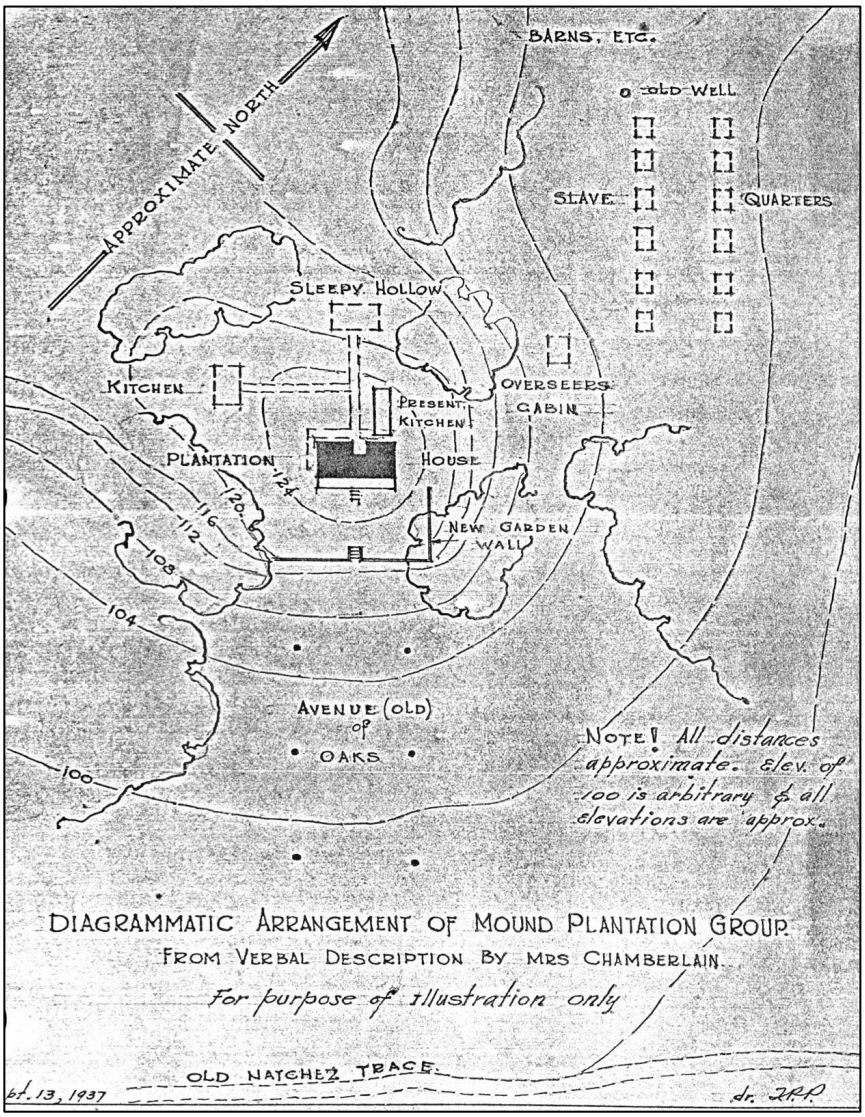


Fig 26. Site plan, 1937. (NATR archives)



Fig 27. Overseer's house excavation, 1941. (NATR archives)

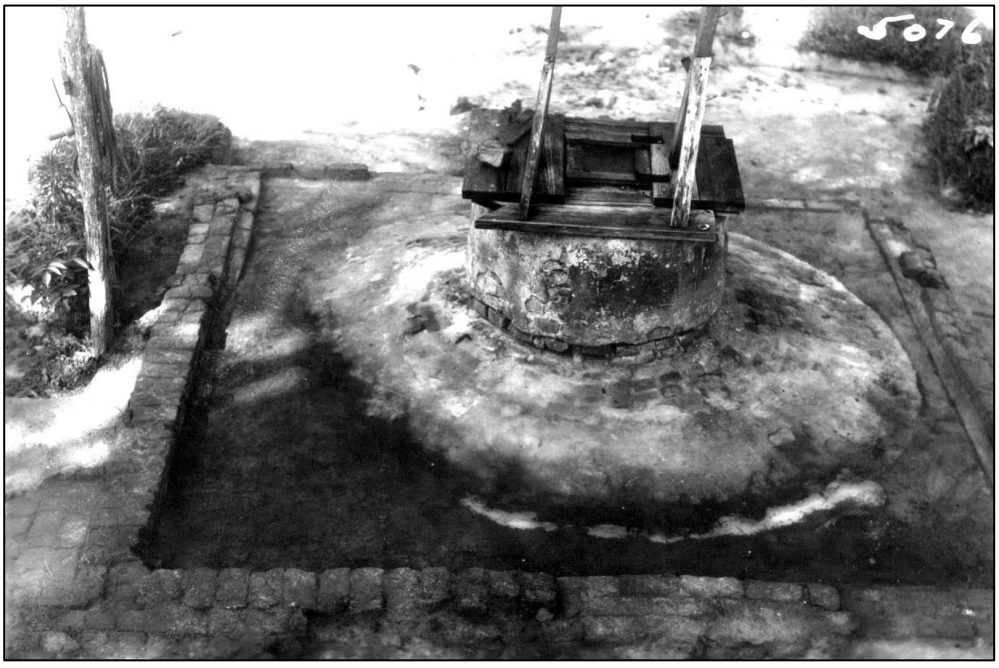


Fig 28. Northwest cistern, 1941. (NATR archives)



Fig 29. Brick kiln excavation, 1941. (NATR archives)



Fig 30. Paulina Ferguson gravestone. (NATR archives)



Fig 31. Front walk flanked with brick-edged beds, 1925. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 32. Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain in front of the brick retaining wall with decorative urns, 1928. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 33. Overgrown front garden, 1950. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 34. Garage, 1936. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 35. Grape arbor and brick seat wall, 1958. (NATR archives)



Fig 36. Chamberlain Family Cemetery, 1960. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)

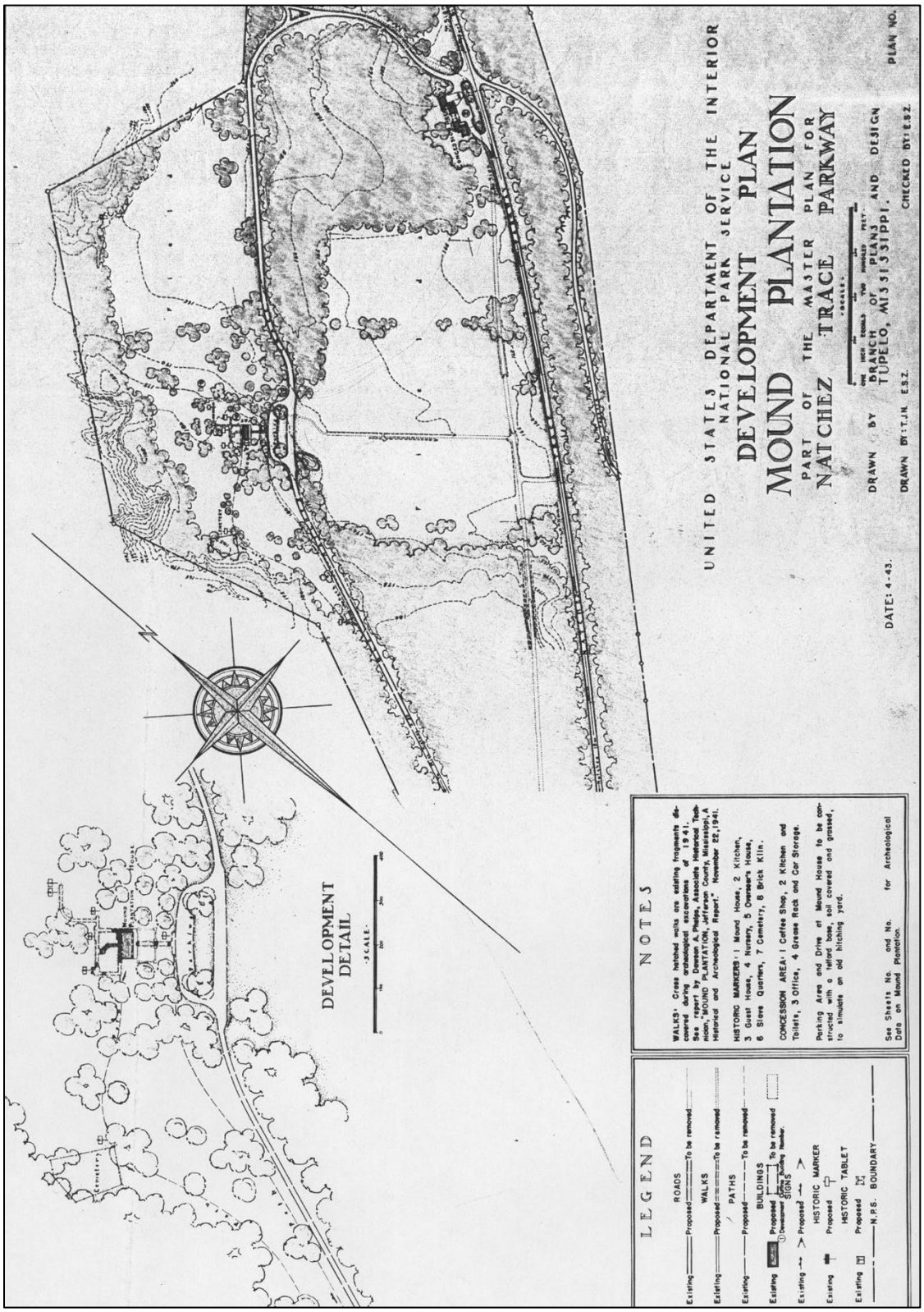


Fig 37. Development Plan, 604/2281, Mound Plantation, 1943. (NATR archives)

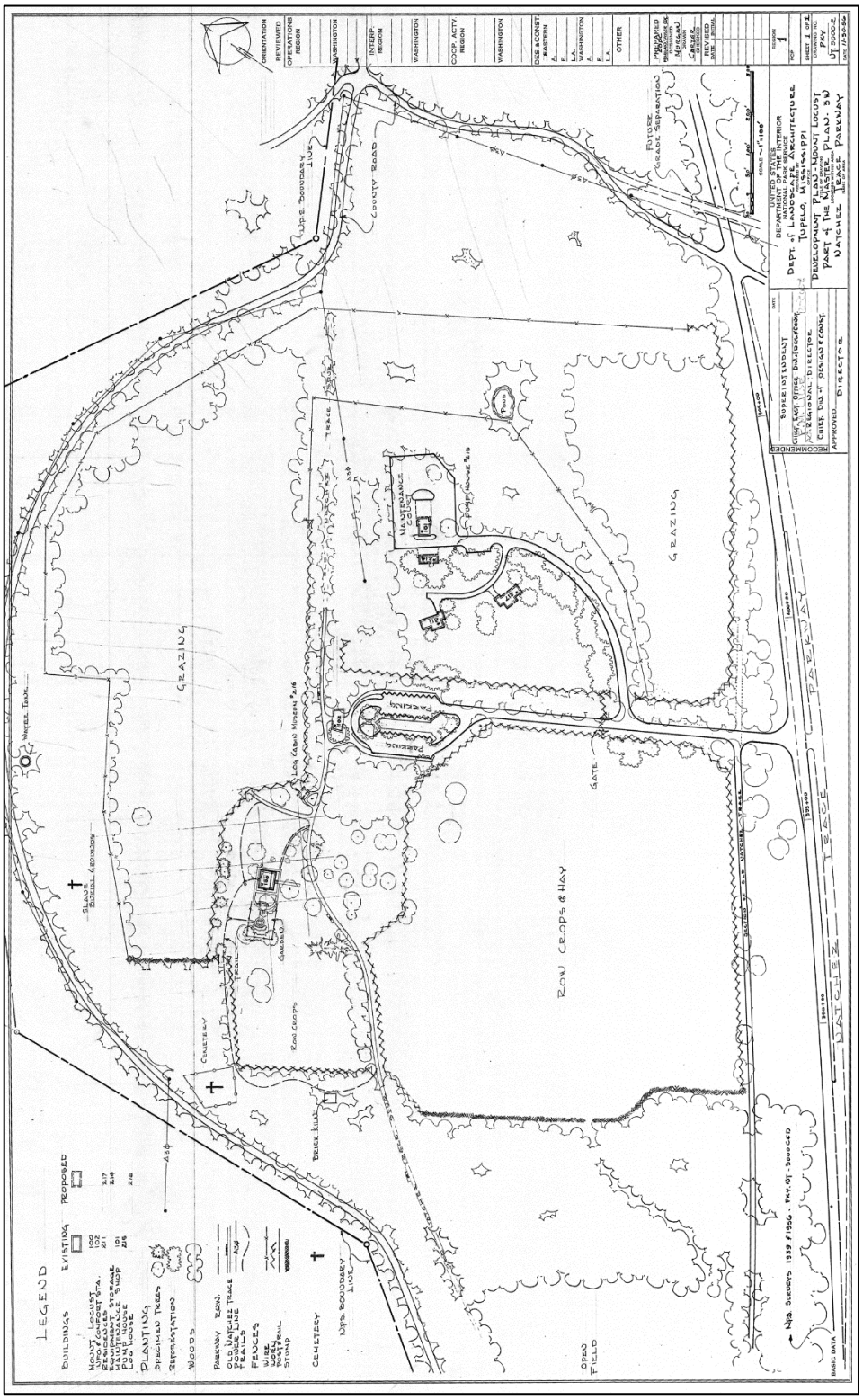


Fig 38. Development Plan, 604/3000E, Mount Locust, 1957. (NATR archives)



Fig 39. View of the rail fence, entrance feature, and house, 1958. (NATR archives)

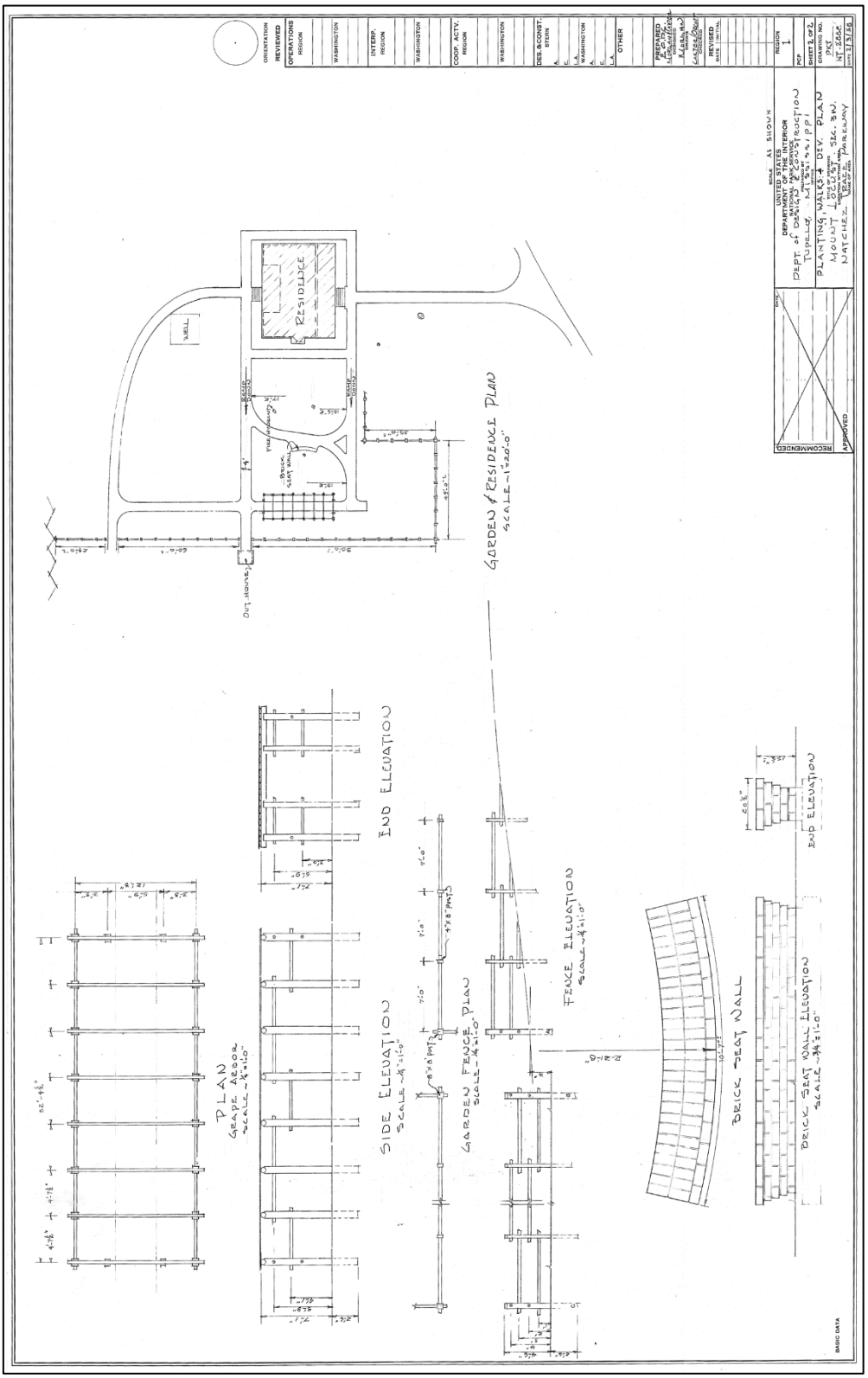


Fig 40. 604/2888-2 Planting, Walks, and Development Plan, 1958. (NATR archives)



Fig 41. Entrance road, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 42. New Visitor contact station and parking area, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 43. Mount Locust dwelling house, 2022. (NPS Image)

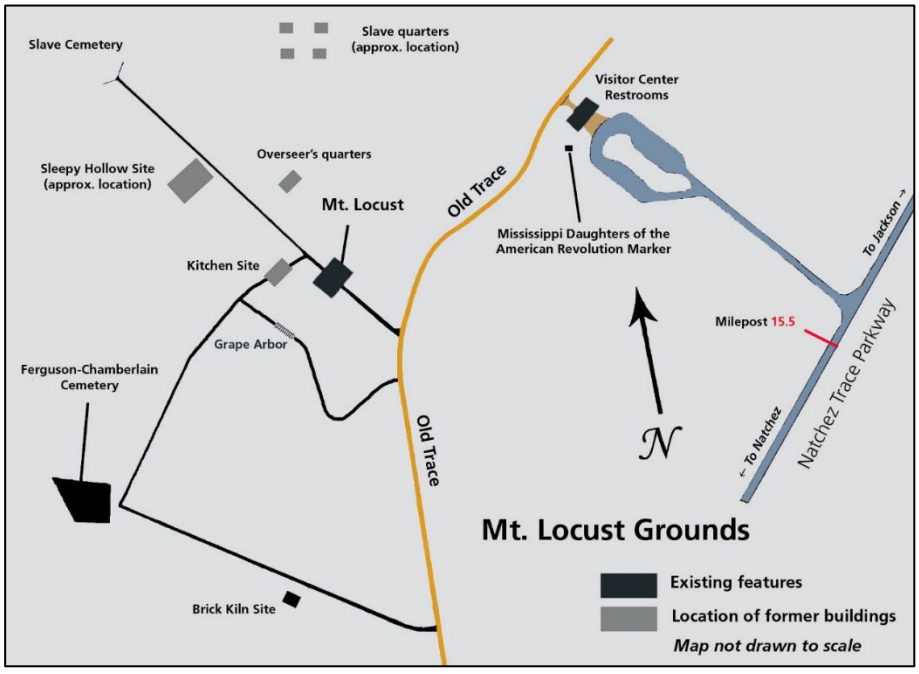


Fig 44. Site plan, 2002. (NPS image)



Fig 45. Pedestrian paths from the rear work yard, 2007. (NPS image)



Fig 46. Cemetery for Enslaved Workers,, 2007. (NPS image)

Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction.

Summary:

From 1779 until its acquisition by the NPS in 1937, land use at Mount Locust was primarily agricultural, burial, and other residential uses. Prior to its acquisition by the NPS, Mount Locust was an active plantation and residence. By 1826, the Mount Locust property consisted of 879 acres, largely supporting corn and cotton. In 1850, the agricultural census documented that Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain owned 350 acres of improved land and 250 acres of unimproved land. The plantation had livestock valued at $3,600 and produced corn, cotton, wool, peas and beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and butter.

Now consisting of 34.7 acres and owned and administered by the National Park Service, land uses since 1937 have been primarily recreation, interpretation, burial, and other park uses, including maintenance, administration, and law enforcement.

Recreation and Interpretation. The primary land uses currently associated with Mount Locust are interpretation and recreation, whereby visitors to the property, including those traveling along the Natchez Trace Parkway, can learn about the Ferguson and Chamberlain families and their use of the property during the 18th and 19th centuries. Visitors can also learn about travel along the Old Natchez Trace, efforts to commemorate the trace by the DAR, and the development of the Natchez Trace Parkway by the NPS. ADA asphalt paving of the Old Natchez Trace along with paths throughout the property connecting the Visitor Contact Station to the house and the house to fields, workspaces, foundations of outbuildings, and cemeteries, allow all visitors to recreate throughout the property while learning about the historic inhabitants of and visitors to Mount Locust. This has been the primary land use since the dedication of Mount Locust in 1957 and the construction of visitors' services buildings and is a contributing feature to the cultural landscape.

Burial. The Mount Locust property contains two cemeteries: The Chamberlain Family Cemetery and the cemetery for enslaved workers. This land use contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Chamberlain Family Cemetery. Paulina Ferguson directed her son to "keep well and properly enclosed our family grave yard near my residence, and also to wall up the grave in which I shall be buried with brick, and also to place a head and foot stone to all the graves of my family in said grave yard." The Chamberlain Family Cemetery's location was in a wooded area west of the main house (Ferguson Family Wills and Estate Papers, NATR Archives). Fifteen head and foot stones, including two large obelisks, date to 1825.
Mapping of the Chamberlain Family Cemetery took place in 1996 during archeological investigations of the site, which indicated that the cemetery mound is not of Native American origin but rather was another of the natural erosional remnants so common in the Natchez Bluffs region (Atkinson 1996, 29).

Cemetery for enslaved workers. The cemetery's location was on a ridge top in a wooded area northwest of the main house. Mapping of the cemetery for enslaved workers occurred during a 1998 archeology fieldwork session, which discovered at least thirty-five depressions that may represent sunken graves and a single limestone marker. The Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) then conducted resistivity and magnetometer surveys, but the results were ambiguous. The topography and vegetation were not conducive to accurate results for resistivity. The magnetometer may have detected a few graves with surviving metal, but since enslaved workers may have been buried without coffins, it was felt that results of this survey may not be accurate. Archeologist Patrick H. Garrow was consulted. He located and mapped forty-two regularly shaped depressions. It appears that the burials were arranged by families (Young 1999, 35-37; Amy L. Young to Arthur L. Jackson, December 21, 1998, NATR Archives).

Feature Name: Recreation and Interpretation
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Burial

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Topography

Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect).

Summary:

Topography Along the Natchez Trace. The Natchez Trace was an outgrowth of a series of ancient Native American trails, which clung to the ridges wherever possible. These trails followed watershed divides over the highest ground, avoiding stream crossings and swamps where possible. From Natchez, a trail followed the Pontotoc Ridge and the ridge dividing the watersheds of the Big Black and Pearl Rivers to the villages of the Chickasaw. They continued across the Tennessee River into the limestone hills, dipping occasionally to ford streams. They

crossed the Duck River and the Duck River ridge portion of the Highland Rim of Tennessee—the watershed between the Duck River and the Cumberland River drainage. Their final destination was the villages of the Cumberland (Phelps and Ross 1962; Bureman 1985, 41; Myers 1960, 91).

The initial alignment of the Natchez Trace, being primarily a ridge road, was not conducive to large scale settlement and development along major portions of its corridor. Changes in alignment were necessary to meet the needs of towns that were established several miles away and eventually needed regular mail service. North of the Duck River, the Trace followed the infertile ridges of the Highland Rim, but settlers preferred the better limestone soils and undulating topography of the Central Basin (Bureman 1985, 69; Myers 1960, 121).

Mount Locust Topography. The land is located on the banks of the south fork of Coles Creek and has been described as "rolling creek bottoms watered by numerous springs." As its name implies, the house is sited on a mound that was said to be of Native American origin. Tradition suggests that Ferguson built his house here because the site offered better protection than adjacent locations, such as the Choctaw Flat north of Mount Locust (Phelps 1941, 1, 36; Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 12).

Apparently, Mount Locust's location offered some protection against yellow fever. Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain wrote in 1837 that two women from Natchez had "runaway from the yellow fever" to Mount Locust. Louis Chamberlain and his family often stayed there for months to improve their health. In his journal Louis wrote: "I left home with my family the latter part of June [1838] and sought highlands of Mississippi. I arrived at mother's … where I soon began to improve my health and by Fall I was heavier than I had been for several years (weighing 136#)" (Obernuefemann and Thomas 1999, 152).

Agricultural practices, particularly cotton farming, depleted the soil and caused widespread erosion. In fact, owners of many plantations in the Old Southwest had abandoned their exhausted lands further east and replaced them with virgin fields in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. As these fields wore out, planters moved on to East Texas. Those advocating scientific

farming, like Edmund Ruffin, editor of the Farmer's Register, were largely ignored by southern planters. Travelers to the area were appalled at the site of abandoned plantations, tumbledown houses, and roads unfit to travel. The face of the southern landscape was a troubling condition that some, like Frederick Law Olmsted, attributed to objectionable land use practices and the institution of slavery (Stilgoe 1982, 75-77).

Long term landholders like the Chamberlains understood the problem. Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain's will refers to the condition of the soil at both Mount Locust and Liverpool plantations:

> As I have commenced a system of restoring and improving the Exhausted lands of my said "Home Place" and Liverpool Places, by the use of Guano as a Manure and other Means and appliances it is my will and desire that said system be continued (Ferguson Family, Wills and Estate Papers, NATR Archives).

Archeology conducted in 1941 indicated that the mound on which the house stood was not built of artificially deposited earth and therefore was not constructed by Native Americans but was of natural origin, as is suggested by its shape. The NPS altered the original topography of the site when the slope of the hill where a brick retaining wall once stood was softened in the 1950s.

Loess Bluffs or Brown Loam Hills

Mount Locust is located in the Loess Bluffs physiographic region. The geology is characterized by sand, clays, and gravels overlain by up to 90-100 feet of loess—wind-blown late Pleistocene silts. The area's topography is one of steep-sided ravines and narrow ridges. Soils are mostly alfisols in bluffs and entisols in bottoms and drainages.

Location of house on high ground. The house is currently located on high ground about 200 yards northwest of the old Natchez Trace. The house was sited on high ground determined to be a natural erosional remnant common to the Loess Bluffs physiographic region most likely to provide better protection than the surrounding level areas. The NPS altered the original

topography of the site when the slope of the hill where a brick retaining wall once stood was softened in the 1950s. Although the mound was leveled out by the NPS somewhat, diminishing topographical integrity, the house remains on higher ground than the surrounding fields and Choctaw flat, which stretches north of the house for some distance. The house's location on high ground is therefore a contributing feature.

Location of Chamberlain Family Cemetery on high ground. Like the house, the Chamberlain Family Cemetery was also located on high ground determined to be a natural erosional remnant common to the Loess Bluffs physiographic region. It remains on high ground today and thus contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Feature Name: Location of house on high ground
Feature Contribution: Contributing
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Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]
Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]
Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Location of Chamberlain Family Cemetery on high ground
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]
Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]



Fig 47. Original topography of the site with brick retaining wall, c. 1939. (NATR archives)



Fig 48. Terraced topography, 1956. (NATR archives)

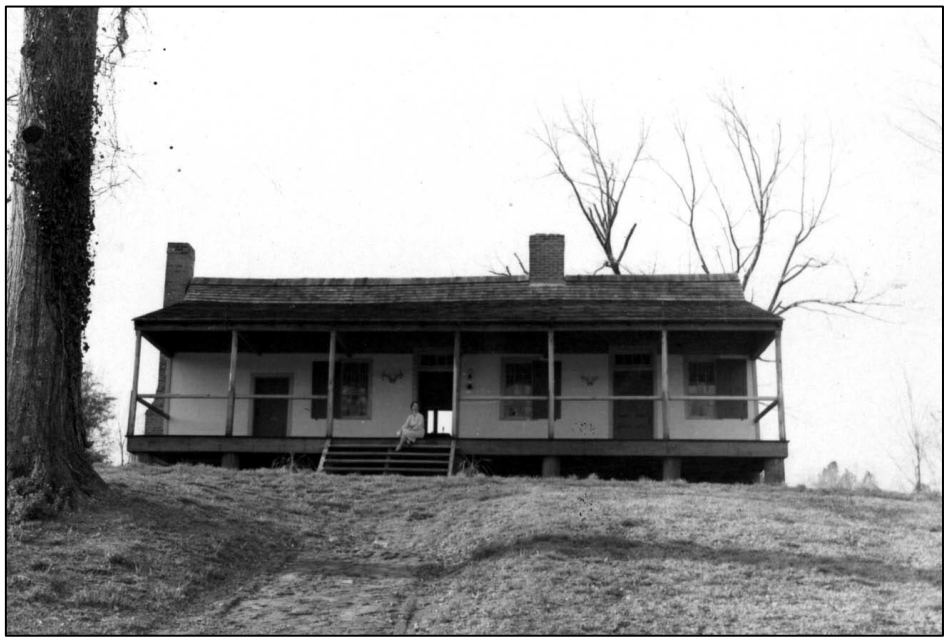


Fig 49. Topography after slope softened, 1956. (NATR Archives)



Fig 50. Topography surrounding the Mount Locust dwelling house, 2007. (NPS image)

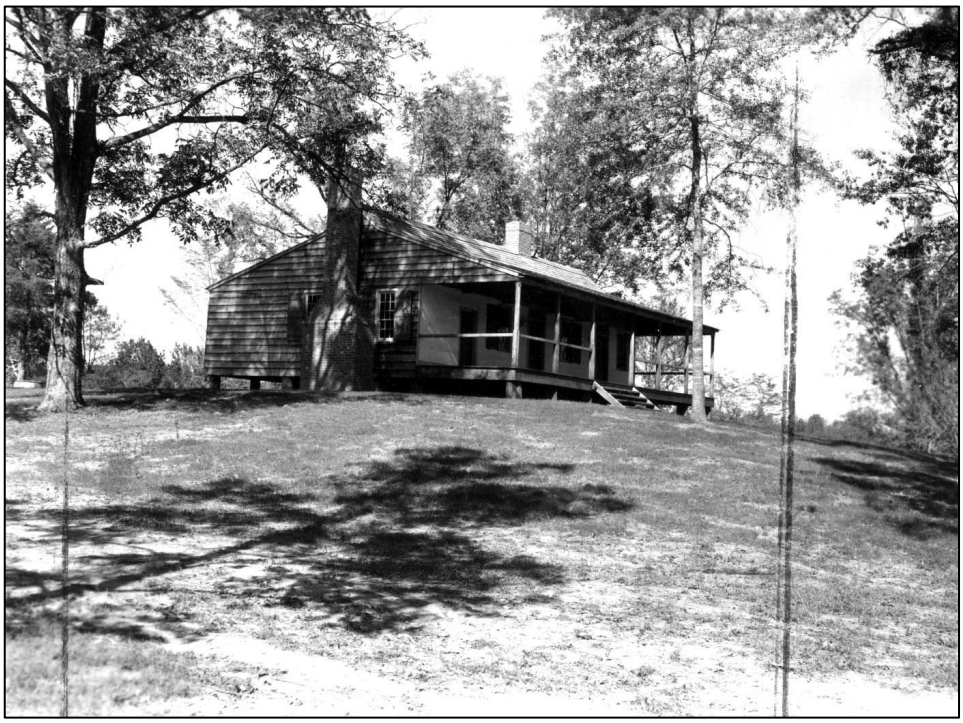


Fig 51. Topography of the site after retaining wall removed, 1956. (NATR archives)

Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

Summary:

Little is known about the cultural vegetation at Mount Locust during the period up to 1860. Travel accounts indicate that ornamentation took a back seat to farming. Joseph Holt Ingraham noted that Mississippi planters "have little room for much else than cotton and corn, and the latter is barely tolerated" (Carriere 1980, 6).

He further observed:

> There are many private residences, in the vicinity of Natchez … whose elegant interiors, contrasting with the neglected grounds about them, suggest the idea of a handsome city residence, accidentally dropped upon a bleak hill, or into the midst of a partially cleared forest, and there remaining, with its noble roof grasped by the arm of an oak, and its windows and columns festooned by the drooping moss, heavily waving in the wind. Thus are situated many of the planters' dwellings, separated from the adjacent forest by a rude, white-washed picket, enclosing around the house an unornamented green, or grazing lot, for the saddle and carriage horses, which can regale their eyes at pleasure, by walking up to the parlour windows and gazing in upon handsome carpets, elegant furniture, costly mantel ornaments, and side-boards loaded with massive plate; … Very few of the planters' villas, even within a few miles of Natchez, are adorned with surrounding ornamental shrubbery walks, or any other artificial auxiliaries to the natural scenery, except a few shade trees and a narrow, graveled avenue from the gate to the house (Ingraham 1835, 100).

In a letter to the editor of the Natchez Daily Courier, Thomas Affleck, who opened Southern Nurseries in Washington, Mississippi, in 1848, described the lack of variety in ornamental plantings:

> As your "City of the Bluffs" seems to have become greatly alive to improvement, of late years, and many neat and home-like houses have been erected in and around the city, a few hints on planting ornamental trees and shrubs, with short descriptions of some of the less common and rarer sorts, may be apropos and useful.
>
> We lack variety, as a general thing, in this class of trees and plants. In a climate in which a greater number of rare and extremely beautiful evergreens are perfectly hardy, than in any other I know of, unless perhaps the Isle of Wight, off the south coast of England – and doubtful if even there – we confine ourselves to some half-dozen kinds. Nothing can be more beautiful than the Laurier Amandier, (Cerarsus Caroliniensis) [sic], Cape Jessamine, Arbor Vitae, some of the Viburnums, Pittosporums, Euonymous, and Myrtles;

> yet, there is a sameness in our lawns and door-yards, from the general and almost exclusive use of these, that might readily be relieved by the addition of some of the many others which are some instances, more beautiful.
>
> So with our shade trees. The perpetually recurring Pride of China tree, beautiful though it be, to the exclusion of the scores of magnificent trees, native and introduced is, to say the least of it, in very bad taste. It is a filthy tree, too, about the yard, when compared with many others (Stritikus and Johns 1996, 2-8).

Little is additionally known about the historic cultural vegetation at Mount Locust in the period after 1860. The best source of documentation is a letter written by Johnnie Irene Chamberlain in 1957 describing some of the plant material present at Mount Locust during the time of Paulina Ferguson and Maybella Chamberlain Wade in the nineteenth century. Many heirloom southern plants were listed, including gardenia, tea olive, flowering pomegranate, crape myrtle, flowering quince, snowball bush, banana shrub, mock orange, flowering almond, deutzia, chionanthus, and wintersweet. It appears that Miss Chamberlain's letter was consulted for the 1958 planting plan.

In the 1957 letter to Malcolm Gardner, Johnnie Irene Chamberlain, daughter of Johnnie C. Chamberlain, described many of the ornamental and medicinal plants grown at Mount Locust:

> You spoke of my mention of sweet olive trees. There were two, perhaps three, on the lawn, planted apparently as specimens. Mother said that when she came down to the Mound to teach about 1887 there were still fine trees, of unusual height growing there.
>
> South of the house where the ground begins to level off, a beautiful flowering pomegranate, planted by Great-grandma Polly herself, was still growing as far back as I can remember. It grew in a straight column about ten or fifteen feet high and flowers bloomed all through the very thick branches. This tree marked the boundary of her own special herb and flower garden. She had a fruiting pomegranate also and this grew in a low, sprawling bushy about halfway between Sleepy Hollow and the main house. A

fragrant, white flowered clematis, called Sweet Autumn was a great favorite in our grandmother's garden and the beloved, intensely sweet vine with white, star-like blooms called the Confederate Jasmine. Yellow Jasmine will be a lovely, and fragrant addition to the vines from the woods, and after I read your letter I went into our woodland and dug up several good, strong vines and set them in cold water to give Bill for Mount Locust. They must be planted during the blooming season or they will not thrive. Let him know where you wish them, and by next Spring I know they will bloom beautifully. They will grow best in very acid soil.

There is another excellent woods vine known as wild clematis, and is covered with white feathery blooms in late summer. The Maderia [sic] on Mount Locust was planted by Grandma Polly for medicinal purposes, and the raw roots, crushed were said to be a splendid poultice for burns. Antigonon, or Rose Montana was planted in the old gardens of Natchez and said to be an import by the Spanish colonists, so in all probability was also at Mount Locust. A pretty green vine, from the woods, you are doubtless familiar with, is the Smilax. … It is an evergreen. Another vine with odd, small, green fruit like tiny watermelons is the wild vine known by the Native American name Monaquemenot, or Chuck-a-luck. Choke grape does well in the woods here, and has a delicious perfume.

Old-fashioned purple lilacs, pink Crepe [sic] Myrtle, and Cape Jasmine, or all in the old gardens at Mount Locust. The latter was used in hedge form, to keep the ever present servants from intruding on guests by staring, the shrub growing very thick and always green.

Mock orange was used in clumps as specimen plantings. So also was the Snowball bushes. These were the common Snowball, so called now by the Nursery catalogs, and not the Japanese, a new variety. Bridal Wreath was a great favorite at the Mound. Blooms are round clusters of tiny, white blossoms on long sprays, (the Van Houtte). There were great clumps of Caster Beans, or Ricinus, in the back yard at Mount Locust, just east of

the old brick blacksmith shop next to the kitchen (and under the same roof). These were planted by Grandma Polly, for, of course, the medicinal value.

They were the green variety. Other shrubs: the Cydonia Japonica, or Flowering Quince, Magnolia Fuscata, Deutzias, Flowering Almond, and Winter-Sweet were regarded as very dependable shrubs in the very old gardens in this part of the South. They were at the Mound too, and the shrub known as Grancy Grey Beard. The botanical name is Chionanthus, and it is sometimes called White Fringe Tree. The very old cemeteries used it often. There was a lovely one in Christ Church cemetery at Church Hill until a few years ago, when excessively dry summers killed it. The flowers were in the form of long silky fringe. One sees it advertised rarely in the nursery catalogs but I often come across it offered for sale in the Louisiana Market Bulletin.

A charming wild shrub is the Hens and Chickens. Long deep green stems are hung with clusters of three-lobed, scarlet, seed-pods which turn from light green to the brightest red in August and September. These split, showing three coral seeds. The Tennessee folk have a delicious name for it, namely, "Hearts just abustin' with love." We have been quite successful in growing it here. The first Button Willow bush I ever saw was down at the lawn gate at the old place. If you are not already familiar with it, it is a stocky shrub growing in moist places, with fragrant button flowers about as large as a quarter, colored a soft creamy white. It blooms all summer. We always thought Grandmother Belle must have had it planted there.

You may hear adverse comment regarding the planting of some of the widely used berry shrubs, as being too modern. Well, we know that the holly was used, and the beloved English hawthorn was all over the Mound, there was a hedge of it below where Grandma Polly's garden was, and a long planting of it, at the edge of the front field, near the Trace. And another large clump at Ferguson's brick kiln. An elderly relative recently told me that a long hedge of it was between the Negro cemetery and the small field back of Mount Locust. There was still a long group there when I as a small child. When we

> moved to Woodwinds I dug up several roots to transplant, and now have a very large bush, and will be happy to let Bill have several off-shoot shrubs of it, to plant at Mount Locust.
>
> There was a most satisfactory and dramatically beautiful shrub the Spaniards were said to have brought to this country, the Yucca, or Candelabra del Dios, which was used as a hedge at Mount Locust, dividing the back yard from the front at the North end of the house. They made a very practical hedge, evergreen, sturdy, sharp leafed, and growing taller and thicker year by year. Mother told us when she was a little girl, the Yucca hedges were still around most of the old servant's quarters—their gardens and cabins—and made a solid fence which kept out the stray cattle and hogs (Johnnie Irene Chamberlain to Malcolm Gardner, March 30, 1957).

Johnnie Irene Chamberlain's account is a comprehensive list of many well-known southern heirloom plants. Many of these appear over and over on lists of plants people remember growing in "grandmother's garden." It is noteworthy that many of the plants that are associated with heirloom southern gardens are not native to the South but originated from China and Japan and were part of an explosion of plants brought back to England by the "plant hunters" like Robert Fortune. These soon found their way to American gardens. Since growing conditions were similar in the South, many of these, like gardenia, tea olive, camellia, and crape myrtle, became synonymous with nineteenth-century southern gardens.

Except for a few of Miss Chamberlain's notations that something was planted by "Great-grandma Polly" or her grandmother Maybella Chamberlain Wade, it is not known when any of the ornamentals or medicinal herbs were planted. Introduction dates can be used as a guide as to which plants would have been available before 1860. Thomas Affleck's letter to the Natchez Courier in 1848 also lists many of these plants as available at his nursery, including yaupon holly, euonymous, tea olive, gardenia, fringe tree, deutzia, crape myrtle, pomegranate, lilac, snowball viburnum, and mock orange.

Introduction Dates for America

Osmanthus fragrans – tea olive (sweet olive) - first offered for sale in 1810

Philadelphus coronarius – mock orange – first offered for sale in 1771

Spiraea prunifolia plena – bridal wreath spiraea – first offered in 1848

Syringa laciniata – cut-leaf lilac – first offered in 1811

Chaenomeles speciosa – flowering quince – first offered in 1814

Chionanthus virginicus – fringe tree – native but first offered in 1783

Viburnum opulus 'Sterile' – snowball bush – first offered in 1771

Clematis virginiana – virgin's bower – native but first offered in 1783

Deutzia scabra – fuzzy deutzia - first offered in 1841

Gardenia jasminoides – gardenia (cape jasmine) – first offered in 1807

Gelsemium sempervirens – Carolina yellow jessamine – native but first offered in 1783

Ilex opaca – American holly – first offered in 1783

Lagerstroemia indica - crape myrtle – first offered in 1807

Michelia figo – banana shrub – first offered in 1811

Chimonanthus praecox – wintersweet –first offered in 1811

Trachelospermum jasminoides - Confederate jasmine – first offered in 1855

Smilax lanceolata – southern smilax – native but first offered in 1804

Clematis terniflora - sweet autumn clematis –available by 1894

Cephalanthus occidentalis - button shrub – first offered in 1783

Punica granatum – pomegranate –first offered in 1792

Antigonon leptopus - coral vine – available by 1895

Prunus grandulosa - flowering almond – first offered in 1844

Euonymous americanus – hearts-a-burstin' – native but first offered in 1783

Crataegus laevigata - English hawthorn – first offered in 1790

Anredera cordifolia – Madeira vine – available by 1846

Also, the exact location of Paulina Ferguson's "own special herb and flower garden" is unknown, but it was probably near the present-day grape arbor. Family photographs from the 1930s show the castor bean described growing along the back fence and vines growing on the front porch.

A planting plan and plant list were prepared for Mount Locust in 1958, and plantings around the house were completed based on the plan. According to the Completion Report, the plan was prepared substantially in accordance with suggestions made by Worth Bailey, who prepared the Furnishings Plan for the house. Annual bedding plants were eliminated because of the high cost of maintenance (Completion Report, Landscape Development and Barriers, Ferguson Place, February 26, 1959, Engineer's Files NATR).

It appears from a comparison of photographs of the site that the NPS removed most of the existing vegetation, with the exception of large specimen trees and a group of crape myrtles, before replanting. Family members recall roses, camellias (*Camellia japonica*), and azaleas (*Azalea indica*) growing on the flat area near the front of the house (604/2888, February 1958; Progress Report, March 1957 and March 1958, Superintendent's Annual Reports, NATR Archives; personal communication Rick Chamberlain).

In 1989, a severe ice storm damaged area trees, which were cut or pruned along the length of the parkway (Superintendent's Annual Report, 1989, NATR Archives). In 1995, black locusts were planted throughout the site to replace the honey locusts for which Mount Locust was named. Park maintenance decided against replanting honey locusts because of the fiercely hard, large thorns on the tree's trunk. In 1997, park ranger Rick Chamberlain prepared a tree and shrub inventory for the plantings around the house. He updated the survey in 2002 (Personal communication, Rick Chamberlain.).

Today, the cultural vegetation at the Mount Locust site derives mainly from the 1958 planting plan. Several large specimen trees predate these planting, including oaks, black walnuts, southern magnolias, and an alleé of red cedars leading to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery. Only one of the many honey locusts for which the site was named survives west of the grape arbor. In 1997, a tree and shrub inventory was completed that updated the 1958 planting plan. This inventory was revisited in 2002. Hurricane Katrina took down several large trees in 2005, including a black walnut near the back porch and an oak adjacent to the Old Trace trail.

Current maintenance procedures have damaged several of the smaller trees planted at Mount Locust, including dogwood and sassafras. String trimmers operated too close to the trunks damaged the trees. In 2007, poison ivy was removed from the grape arbor. Also at this time, a dogwood near the back porch and a snowball viburnum were replaced in kind.

Spring and fall vegetable gardens are planted seasonally at Mount Locust just beyond the rail fencing that delimits the rear of the property.

Large specimen trees. Several large specimen trees survive from the nineteenth century, including oaks, black walnuts, southern magnolias, and an alleé of red cedars leading to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery. Only one of the many honey locusts for which the site was named survives west of the grape arbor. Having survived from the nineteenth century, these trees contribute to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Chamberlain Family Cemetery vegetation. Numerous hardy orange shrubs (*Poncirus trifoliata*) and Carolina cherry laurels growing along the path to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery today predate the 1958 planting plan. Plantings at the Chamberlain Family Cemetery within the fence include gardenia, spiraea, dogwood, and crape myrtle planted before 1995, and red tip (*Photinia glabra*), azalea, ligustrum, and tea olive planted by Rick Chamberlain. Mrs. Johnnie Chamberlain planted numerous clumps of iris around the cemetery. Rick Chamberlain planted azaleas and daffodils in front of the cemetery. Numerous drifts of native wildflowers are growing in the wooded areas around the cemetery. Iris can be seen growing next to Paulina Ferguson's grave marker in an old photograph (Personal communication, Rick Chamberlain). The planting at the Chamberlain Family Cemetery contains many southern heirlooms and is really the best surviving example of what might have been present in the historic landscape at Mount Locust during the nineteenth century and is a contributing landscape feature.

1958 Planting plan. The NPS-prepared planting plan was implemented in 1958. A conflict arose between the plants described by Johnnie Irene Chamberlain and the NPS philosophy at the time

of a more native plant palette. According to the Completion Report, "shrubs, plants, and trees planted were of the native type, some of nursery type, but mostly gathered from areas along the parkway which required thinning." As mentioned earlier, the majority of the plants described as growing at Mount Locust were not native to the South. This probably explains why many of the plants described by Johnnie Irene Chamberlain were not included in the planting plan. In her letter to Malcolm Gardener, she stated: "I feel you are showing splendid judgment in deciding to use native shrubs and vines." A few exotics like gardenia, crape myrtle, mimosa, snowball bush, and pomegranate were included. In other cases, a native form of an exotic mentioned was used, as in the case of oneseed hawthorn instead of English hawthorn.

Plants Included in the Planting Plan

Cornus florida – flowering dogwood

**Chionanthus virginicus* – fringe tree

**Ilex opaca* – American holly

Cercis canadensis – eastern redbud

**Juniperus virginiana* – eastern redcedar

Halesia diptera – two-wing silverbell

Magnolia virginiana – sweetbay magnolia

**Yucca gloriosa* – moundlily yucca

Calycanthus florida – sweetshrub

**Punica granatum* – pomegranate

**Punica granatum plena* – flowering pomegranate

Catalpa bignonioides – southern catalpa

Ficus carica – fig

**Crataegus monogyna* – oneseed hawthorn

**Osmanthus fragrans* – tea olive

**Hydrangea quercifolia* – oakleaf hydrangea

**Lagerstroemia indica* - crape myrtle

**Syringa vulgaris* – common lilac

Prunus caroliniana – Carolina cherry laurel

Albizzia julibrissin – mimosa

Magnolia grandiflora – southern magnolia

**Chaenomeles speciosa* – flowering quince

Sassafras albidum – sassafras

**Philadelphus coronarius* – mockorange

Ilex verticillata – winterberry

Diospyros virginiana – persimmon

Lonicera tatarica – bush honeysuckle

Rhus canadensis – fragrant sumac

Rhus typhina – staghorn sumac

**Lonicera sempervirens* – coral honeysuckle

Hibiscus syriacus – althea

Wisteria frutescens – American wisteria

Callicarpa americana – beautyberry

Robinia pseudoacacia – black locust

Malus augustifolia – southern crabapple

Vitis labrusca – fox grape

Gelsemium sempervirens – yellow Carolina jessamine

Gleditsia triacanthos – honey locust

Buddleia davidii – butterflybush

**Gardenia jasminoides* – cape jasmine

**Viburnum opulus* 'Sterile' – snowball bush

Vinca minor – periwinkle

*Mentioned by Johnnie Irene Chamberlain or other family members

The 1958 planting plan used trees and shrubs that family members recalled, as well as native plants that were favorites in the southern landscape. Many of the small trees and shrubs planted in 1958 have not survived or are in poor condition. While the deterioration of many of the small

trees and shrubs impacts the material integrity of the 1958 planting plan, the plan itself still retains sufficient integrity and is a contributing feature to the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Euonymus foundation plantings – Euonymus was planted near the foundation of the dwelling house as part of the 1958 planting plan. Foundation plantings were not common in the 1820s, as the house dominated the landscape in most cases. Therefore these foundation plantings are non-contributing to the landscape.

Feature Name: Large specimen trees
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]
Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]
Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]
Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Chamberlain Family Cemetery vegetation
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]
Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]
Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]
Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: 1958 Planting plan

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Euonymus foundation plantings

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, incompatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]



Fig 52. Castor bean along back fence, 1936. (Courtesy of Rick Chamberlain)



Fig 53. Site before planting, 1956. (NATR archives)



Fig 54. Site after planting, 1959. (NATR archives)

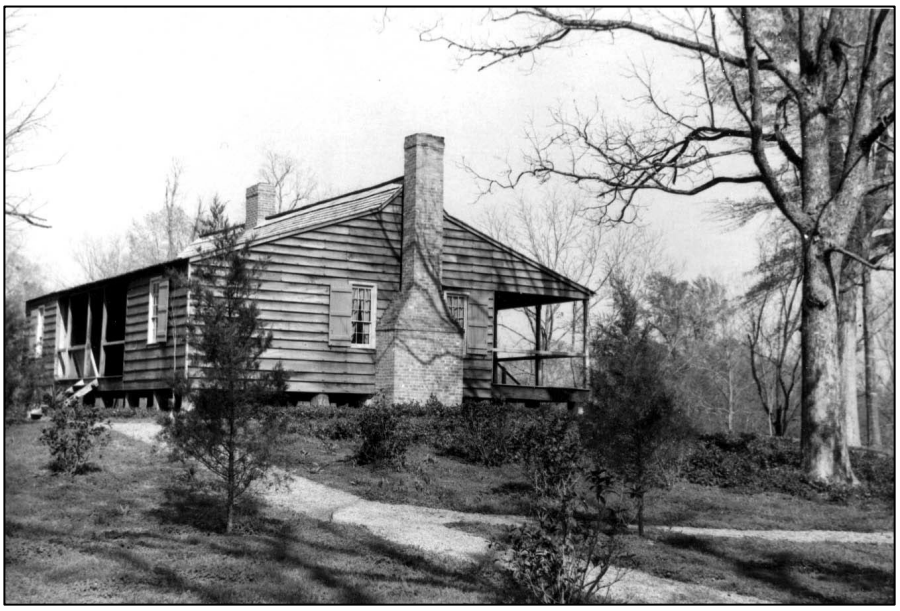


Fig 55. Site after planting, 1959. (NATR archives)

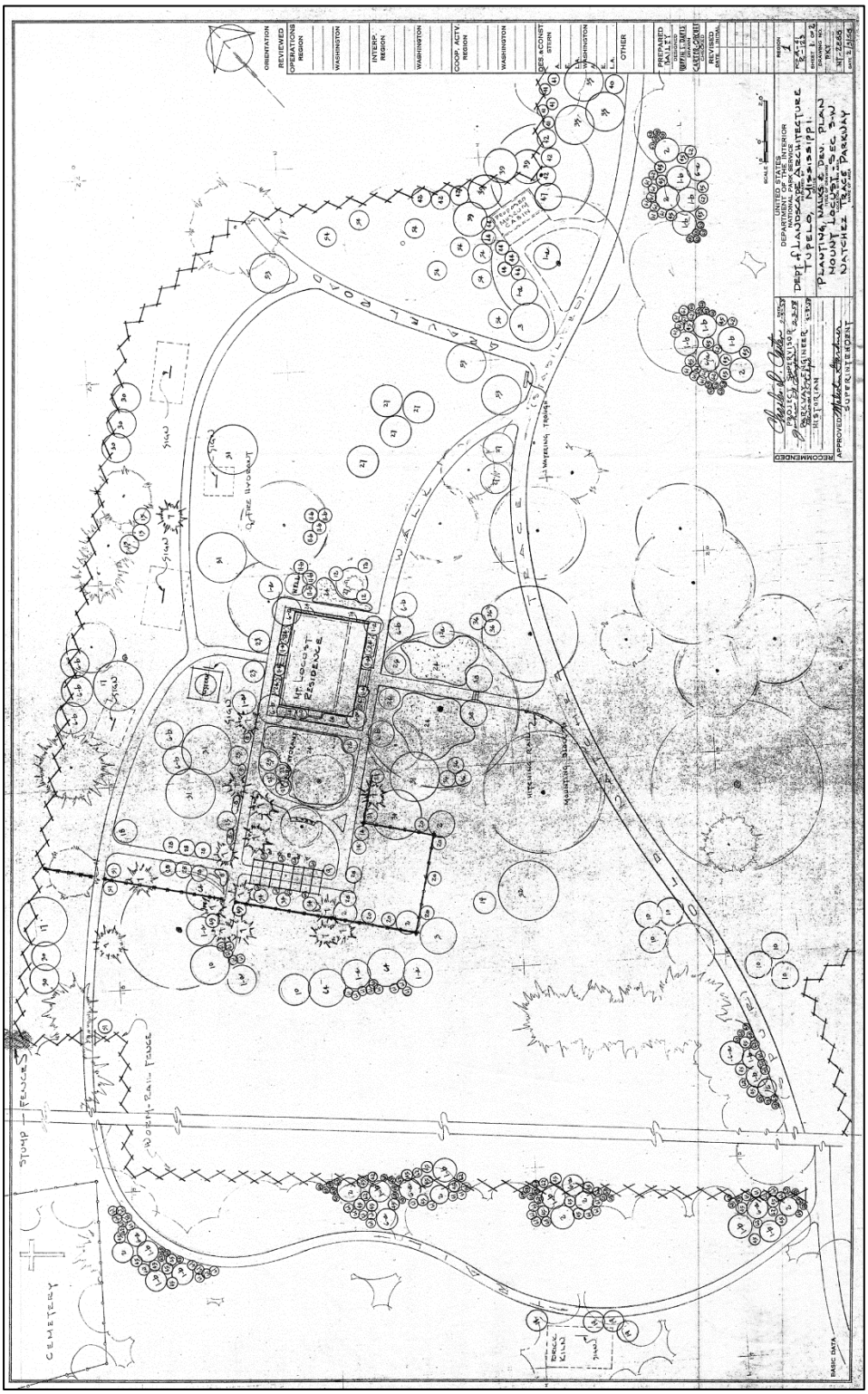


Fig 56. 604/2888-1 Planting, Walks, and Development Plan, 1958. (NATR archives)



Fig 57. Chamberlain Family Cemetery,1988. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 58. Large trees adjacent to the old Trace trail, 2007. (NPS image)



Fig 59. Surviving honey locust near grape arbor, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 60. Vegetable garden, 1997. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 61. Cedar allée leading to Chamberlain Family Cemetery, 2007. (NPS image)

Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Summary:

Historically, a system of brick walkways encircled the house and linked the house to the outbuildings nearby. A path led to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery and brick kiln. Other pathways and farm roads would have been present in the 1820s, but their location is not documented.

By June 1957, 230 feet of brick walks and 1,340 feet of asphalt stabilized walks had been constructed. Development Plan 3000E included a walkway from the Old Trace trail northeast of the house connecting with the brick path in front of the house and another path intersecting a service road and circling back around the house, cemetery, and brick kiln. Also included in the circulation plan was a network of paths that led to the arbor and brick seat wall. A final sketch of

the site, eliminating a portion of the path that led to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery, provided access to the brick kiln by a separate loop from the Old Trace trail.

A new asphalt walkway led from the Old Trace trail to the brick walkway in front of the house. All other paths were surfaced with gravel (Completion Report, Walks and Trails, Ferguson Place, Engineer's Files NATR; Monthly Progress Report, June 1957, NATR Archives).

The 1958 circulation plan included a network of pedestrian paths that led from the brick walkways on the west side of the house to the arbor and brick seat wall. It is not known when these paths were taken out, but the path from the walkway to the grape arbor was still being maintained in 1990. Only its trace remains today. Also taken out at some point were two paths from the 1958 plan that provided access to the house from the old Trace trail. One was a curvilinear asphalt path leading to the brick walkway south of the house and the other was a gravel road that led to the back of the property.

In 2003, the Old Trace trail from the visitor contact station was retrofitted to meet accessibility standards. In front of the house, a modern brick walkway leads up the slope to the front porch, where it connects with a reconstructed historic brick walkway that encircles the dwelling. From the back porch, a new asphalt trail that meets accessibility standards leads west to an old fig tree, where it turns south and travels by the grape arbor and reconnects with the Old Trace trail. A portion of the trail continues west to the edge of the woods, where it transitions to a gravel trail leading out to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery and brick kiln and circles back to the old Trace trail. A chip seal trail northwest of the house leads to the cemetery for enslaved workers.

Roads.

Natchez Trace Parkway. The Natchez Trace Parkway (NATR) is a 450-mile parkway that runs through the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. Construction began in 1937 and concluded in 2005. Mount Locust was acquired as part of the right-of-way for the parkway, which commemorates the Old Natchez Trace. The parkway connects to Mount Locust via an entrance drive and contributes to the significance of the property.

Mission 66 entrance road from parkway to the Visitor Center. Today, the Mount Locust site is accessed from the Natchez Trace Parkway by an entrance drive, which leads to a thirty-car parking area and visitor contact station. Constructed during the Mission 66 era for visitors' services, this road contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Mission 66 Parking Area. A parking area adjacent to the interpretive shelter accommodated thirty cars. Constructed during the Mission 66 era for visitors' services, this parking area contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Mission 66 Service road. A service road east of the entrance drive leads to the maintenance area and ranger's office. Constructed during the Mission 66 era, this road contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Pedestrian Circulation and Accessibility.

Old Trace trail. The Old Trace trail leading west from the parking area and interpretive shelter to the brick kiln was stabilized with gravel and asphalt in 1957. In 2003, the Old Trace trail from the visitor contact station was retrofitted to meet accessibility standards. From the visitor contact station and parking area, a pedestrian trail along the Old Natchez Trace leads west to the house and grounds. Although the Old Natchez Trace was not paved in asphalt historically, the corridor is still intact and a main reason for the location of Mount Locust and is therefore a contributing landscape feature.

Brick walk system. The remains of an extensive nineteenth-century walk system around the house and work yard was uncovered during archeological investigations in 1941. These walks were in various stages of repair. In some cases the condition was so good that, after cleaning, the walk was visible as originally built. In other cases, the brick had shifted to such an extent that only a slight alignment could be discerned between outbuildings. One of the best preserved led around the west and north sides of the house to an abandoned cistern. A walk that had been covered over connected the current cistern to the house (Phelps 1941, 42; "Buried Facts," 4).

By June 1957, 230 feet of brick walks and 1,340 feet of asphalt stabilized walks had been constructed. In front of the house, a modern brick walkway leads up the slope to the front porch, where it connects with a reconstructed historic brick walkway that encircles the dwelling. Matching old brick of the period was used to reconstruct the walkways around the house. These walks, built or restored during the Mission 66 era, contribute to the significance of Mount Locust.

Gravel trail leading from Old Trace to Chamberlain Family Cemetery and brick kiln. A portion of the trail continues west to the edge of the woods, where it transitions to a gravel trail leading out to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery and brick kiln and circles back to the old Trace trail. As part of the 1958 plan, this trail contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

ADA Asphalt trail from back porch to grape arbor – A concrete trail installed from the rear of the structure in 1994 turned southeast to reach the grape arbor and connected with the Old Trace trail. The completion of an accessibility trail project occurred in 2003. The accessible trail followed the existing concrete trail installed in 1994 and the Old Trace trail. During removal of the concrete walk, three areas were identified containing cultural features. Since construction of the concrete walkway in 1994 damaged the northeast corner of one brick structure, a portion of the trail had to be shifted two feet to avoid further contact. Other features of the plan included trail interface at the information station, extension of the walkway to the gravel path leading to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery, construction of an information kiosk, and retrofitting the existing section of Old Trace trail to ADA standards (Charles F. Lawson to Director, Southeast Archeological Center, October 24, 2002; Superintendent's Annual Narrative, 2002-03, NATR Archives).

Today, this ADA accessible asphalt trail leads west from the rear of the house to an old fig tree where it turns south and travels by the grape arbor, then reconnecting with the Old Trace trail. Due to its age, this trail is noncontributing but compatible.

Chip seal trail. A chip seal trail northwest of the house leads to the cemetery for enslaved workers. This trail is noncontributing to the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Historic approach from the Old Trace to Mount Locust. The historic approach from the trace to Mount Locust was restored in 1978. This brick walk was on axis with the front door of the house, ascending from the trace up a series of steps. Due the age of the reconstruction, this approach is noncontributing but compatible.

Feature Name: Natchez Trace Parkway
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]
Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]
Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]
Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 entrance road from parkway to the Visitor Center
Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude: [enter text here]
Longitude: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]
CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]
FMSS Record Type: Location
FMSS Record Number: 67645
Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: No
Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 Parking Area

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 67948

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: No

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 Service road, Ranger Office Road, and Parking (3 entries in FMSS)

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 67909

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: No

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Old Trace trail

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Brick walk system

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Gravel trail leading from Old Trace to Chamberlain Family Cemetery and brick kiln

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: ADA Asphalt trail from back porch to grape arbor

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Chip seal trail

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Historic approach from the Old Trace to Mount Locust

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]



Fig 62. Northeast walk, 1941. (NATR archives)



Fig 63. Walkway up to house, 1958. (NATR archives)



Fig 64. Reconstructed brick walkways, 1956. (NATR Archives)



Fig 65. Approach before restoration, 1974. (NATR archives)



Fig 66. Approach after restoration, 1979. (NATR archives)



Fig 67. Front steps, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 68. Reconstructed front walk 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 69. ADA path to grape arbor, 2007. (NPS image)



Fig 70. Transition of ADA path to gravel path leading to cemetery, 2007. (NPS image)



Fig 71. Brick kiln walk, 2007. (NPS image)



Fig 72. Trace of 1958 path down to grape arbor, 2007. (NPS image)

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity.

Summary:

Buildings

The Mount Locust dwelling house is currently the only extant building on the landscape relating to the 1779-1820 period of significance.

A number of other buildings remain only as foundations or below-ground resources.

Kitchen. Archeology conducted in 1941 found the assumed location of the kitchen west of the main house but supplied little information about the architecture.

The Guest House. Concentrated rubble marked the assumed location of the Guest House in 1941, but no other information was noted.

The Nursery. No remains of the nursery were found in 1941.

The Overseer's House. Archeology conducted in 1941 found the building's location north of the main house. One L-shaped section of brick may have been the base of a corner pier.

Brick Kiln. The foundation of the brick kiln was located southwest of the main house in 1941.

Enslaved Quarters. No remains were found to the north and northwest of the main house in 1941. In 1998, clusters of artifacts that may relate to enslaved quarters were discovered in the same area, but no undisturbed deposits were found (Phelps 1941, 33-48; Young 1999, 39).

Mount Locust. It appears that the house was built between 1782 and 1785. When the land was confiscated in October 1781, the appraisers of Blommart's property reported that "there is no settlement." It was first noted that a house stood on the tract on the 1785 Vousdan survey (Phelps 1941, 12; Phelps 1947, 3). According to family tradition, the original house consisted of one room. No written documentation has been found confirming this belief, but it seems likely that this was the case. Charles E. Peterson described what they found when they examined the framing of the house:

> The framing reveals clearly that the original house consisted basically of a large room, 16 feet by 20 feet, and three galleries, the south portions of which were enclosed to form some small rooms. There are French Creole, British and American influences in the general mass and layout, as well as in construction details.
>
> Creole influence is evident in the galleries—front and rear—with the enclosed portions under the hipped lean-to forming cabinets typical of the oldest houses along the

> Mississippi. An unexpected but characteristic bit of carpentry coming from the same people are the augur holes in a section of the old framework meant for placing cross-sticks to reinforce a filling of bouzillage, a mixture of clay and Spanish moss. While the original type of chimney (preceding the present brick stack) is not known, our findings in the later framework what appears to be a reused corner post of an old mud chimney, suggests that the first one was of the earthen type generally used … in the Creole house.
>
> British influence seems to be reflected in the size of the frame. … the Pensacola government grants in West Florida (which then included Natchez) required the prospective settler to build "a substantial house at least 16' x 20' in size." Mount Locust is a frame house—and therefore more substantial than the log cabin typical of the American frontier and remarkably enough, the size of the original frame unit happens to be 16 feet by 20 feet. This probably means that it is a survival from the British period (before 1783) or that it was influenced indirectly by the Pensacola regulation.
>
> American influence is found in the use of materials locally available, mostly upland forest lumber which could be cut on the property. Very little lime mortar or plaster was used, there being no limestone or shell deposits in the region from which it could be made. The Mount Locust brick were, by tradition, burned on the place, probably over a hardwood fire in an old-fashioned updraft kiln. The technique is still known and has been used in recent years to supply restoration work with handmade brick of the right color, texture, and hardness to match the old (Peterson 1955).

In 1799, William Ferguson made extensive repairs or alterations to the original structure or built a new house, as evidenced by two bills for materials purchased in 1799 and presented to the executor of his estate after his death in 1801. The bills seem to indicate a considerable improvement and led architect V. C. Sloane to believe that the bill was for building the northeast and southwest front rooms and perhaps a portico on the southwest end. It was impossible, however, to state exactly what improvements were made at that time, as no documentation had been found, and materials used in these changes were in part used lumber or timbers, making it

difficult to establish any sequence in which the work was done (Kaye 1998, 6; Phelps 1941, 15-17; Phelps 1947, 9).

A detailed architectural evaluation of the house in 1954 revealed that certain additions had been made to the original structure very early—possibly prior to 1800—and that it had been significantly changed and enlarged around 1820 and again during the 1840s. The 1840s addition consisted of a 12-foot-extension of the two eastern rooms (2 and 3), enclosure of the rear gallery to form rooms 4 and 5, enlargement of room 6, and the addition of a rear shed porch. This was the last major structural change to the house (Phelps 1947, 3; Kaye 1998, 3-6).

The National Park Service acquired Mount Locust in 1937, at which time it was in very bad condition. HABS documentation occurred in 1940. In 1944, in an attempt to halt further deterioration of the structure, the rotted front porch floor was removed to eliminate a hazard and allow better access to the foundation at the front of the building. The rear porch, not original, was also removed for safety reasons. Walls were jacked up and new sills and piers added to correct settlement of exterior wall sills. Windows, doors, and siding were so badly deteriorated that the structure was covered with roll-roofing. The existing corrugated, galvanized iron roofing was found to be satisfactory (Kaye 1998, Section G).

In 1946, measured drawings were completed for Mount Locust (Melvin Josephson to Malcolm Gardner, June 25, 1947, NATR Archives).

After a decision was made to return the house to its c.1820 configuration, a restoration was begun in January 1955 under the supervision of NPS architects Charles Peterson and Henry Judd. It appeared to be impractical to prepare detailed architectural plans for the job, and it was decided that plans would be improvised, step by step, by Peterson and Judd. Gordon Whittington, a Natchez carpenter with considerable experience in restoration work, was hired. Only a small crew could be used, as it was necessary to prepare plans as needed. The completion of the restoration occurred in 1956, at which time another set of HABS drawings were prepared

(Completion Report Ferguson House Stabilization, December 16, 1958, Engineer's Files NATR; Kaye 1998, 4).

Natchez Trace Parkway historian Dawson Phelps described the project:

> The most difficult aspect of the job was the acquisition of materials. The house had been built at the time when a wide variety of woods was available for lumber. During the past 150 years many of these woods had disappeared from the market and it was necessary to locate sources of supply, frequently at small and obscure mills, some of which were 75 to 100 miles distant. Much of the lumber had to be produced by special order to duplicate that used in the original building. By improvisation, modern nails were remade to duplicate old nails. I kept fairly close touch with Mr. Judd during this period and recall that frequently he was discouraged by many of the difficulties met. However, I believe that he had a lot of fun doing the job. It was impossible to buy lumber with 18th century trim. Tools to finish lumber for reproducing 18th century trim had to be improvised and the work was done by the laborers on the job (Completion Report 1958, 3).

The restoration in 1956 reduced the length of rooms 3 and 4 to their documented earlier lengths and built an exterior fireplace at the location of impression marks that were discovered under room 2. The interior wall boards of rooms 3 and 4 were replaced with new material. Wall boards in rooms 1, 6, and 7 were reworked to accommodate relocation of doors. All flooring was replaced, except in room 2, where relocated wood was used (Kaye 1998, 6).

Most of the exterior siding needed replacing, except for the front gallery. New shutters were installed, based on the design of the surviving shutters. Most of the windows received new sash. Doors were relocated to their earlier locations and some new doors were constructed. Since none of the original hardware survived, it was necessary to determine the types used and find replacements. Local antique shops were of little help. A few items were salvaged from old houses in the vicinity, but most were reproduced by a local blacksmith.

A corrugated, galvanized iron roof over wooden lath was removed. The roof structure was repaired with new rafters where needed, new roof lathing constructed, and new wood shingles applied. The dedication of the restored house occurred in February 1957 (Kaye 1998, 7; Completion Report 1958, 3-5; For drawings of framing plan, see HABS report for Mount Locust).

In 1976, replacement of the shingle roof occurred. In 1984, repairs to the front and back steps occurred. In 1987, barriers inside the house were removed and replaced with plexiglass barriers, which gave a more open feeling to the rooms and offered maximum protection of the rooms and contents. At this time, a new smoke detector system was installed.

In 1989, a new wood shingle roof was placed on the house. In 1992, the replacement of the wood piers and the front porch occurred. In 1995, the front porch flooring was replaced. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina damaged the roof, which was replaced in 2007. In 2009, long-standing water damage required the replacement of three windows (Kaye 1998, 4-7; Superintendent's Annual Reports; personnel communication Mike Hazlip).

The majority of the original building fabric of the Mount Locust structure has been replaced in kind. Original siding is present on the front gallery. Ceiling boards in Rooms 1, 6, and 7 are original. Exposed ceiling beams in Room 3 are original sassafras.

Most roof rafters are original. The roof was damaged by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 and replaced in 2007. In 2009, three windows were replaced that suffered water damage after Hurricane Katrina (See Kaye, p. 9 for additional construction materials).

The dwelling house contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape. *1956-1960 Construction*. New construction at Mount Locust began in 1956 and included an interpretive shelter with a comfort station, an employee residence, a shop and equipment storage building, and a pump house. In 1960, an oil and paint storage building was added.

The construction of a frame blacksmith shop occurred in 1974 as part of a living history exhibit (Satchfield 1974). It was taken down at some point before 1980 when a blacksmith was no longer included in the living history demonstrations.

Mission 66 visitor contact station. The visitor contact station is frame construction with wood siding. The visitor contact station was originally built as an exhibit shelter and comfort station in 1956. The addition of a unisex, handicapped-accessible bathroom to the comfort station occurred in 1990. In 1993, the interpretive shelter was enclosed as an information station and bookstore (Superintendent's Annual Narrative, 1990, 1993, NATR Archives). In 2003, the information station was re-roofed. The visitor contact station was replaced in 2013 with a side-gabled building. The visitor contact station is no longer legible as a Mission 66 building and is therefore non-contributing.

Mission 66 rangers' office. The rangers' office (formerly the residence) is frame construction with brick veneer and vinyl siding and built-up roof. Originally built as an employee residence in 1956, an A-frame roof was added to the building between 1979 and 1980, storm windows were added in 1987, and a rehabilitation of the structure enclosed a screened porch around 1998 to convert it to office space (Superintendent's Annual Narrative, 1990, 1993, NATR Archives). Despite the slight roof change – the house originally had a gable roof – and the enclosure of a screen porch, the rangers' office retains its overall form and original fenestration. It is thus a contributing landscape feature.

Mission 66 pump house. The pump house was constructed in 1956 and is masonry construction using bricks to match the other maintenance buildings. It is a contributing landscape feature.

Mission 66 maintenance shop. The maintenance shop, constructed in 1956, is steel construction with brick veneer and vinyl siding and built-up roof. The addition of the current A-frame roof in 1979 significantly changed the appearance of the building. Further changes occurred in 1985, when the storage area was enclosed and a separate equipment storage shed was constructed. A newly constructed office in the maintenance shop became the duty station for the South District

Interpreter (Superintendent's Annual Narrative, 1980, 1987, NATR Archives). Originally flat-roofed, the A-frame roof on the maintenance shop completely changed the roof profile of the 1956 building. The maintenance shop is therefore non-contributing to the Mount Locust cultural landscape, but it is compatible.

Mission 66 oil and paint storage building. The oil and paint storage building was constructed in 1960 of cement block and scratched-face brick, with part of the exterior wall clad in vinyl siding. An A-frame roof was added to the building between 1979 and 1980. The oil and paint storage building originally had a flat roof, and the A-frame roof has changed the roof profile and extended the footprint of the building. It is therefore noncontributing but compatible.

Equipment storage shed. Equipment was previously stored in the storage area of the maintenance shop, but a separate equipment storage shed was constructed in 1985. The equipment storage shed is steel construction with vinyl siding. It is noncontributing but compatible.

Structures

Two historic cemeteries occupy the Mount Locust landscape, and two historic cisterns were documented in the 1941 archeological survey. The northwest cistern was surrounded by a 12-foot-square of bricks. The brick kiln survives as a foundation only.

Chamberlain Family Cemetery. Paulina Ferguson directed her son to "keep well and properly enclosed our family grave yard near my residence, and also to wall up the grave in which I shall be buried with brick, and also to place a head and foot stone to all the graves of my family in said grave yard." The Chamberlain Family Cemetery's location was in a wooded area west of the main house (Ferguson Family Wills and Estate Papers, NATR Archives). Fifteen head and foot stones, including two large obelisks, date to 1825.

Mapping of the Chamberlain Family Cemetery took place in 1996 during archeological investigations of the site, which indicated that the cemetery mound is not of Native American

origin but rather was another of the natural erosional remnants so common in the Natchez Bluffs region (Atkinson 1996, 29). The Chamberlain Family Cemetery contains fifteen head and foot stones. Two large obelisks demarcate the oldest section of the cemetery (List of Classified Structures, 1998). The cemetery contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Cemetery for Enslaved Workers. The cemetery's location was on a ridge top in a wooded area northwest of the main house. Mapping of the cemetery for enslaved workers occurred during a 1998 archeology fieldwork session, which discovered at least thirty-five depressions that may represent sunken graves and a single limestone marker. The Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) then conducted resistivity and magnetometer surveys, but the results were ambiguous. The topography and vegetation were not conducive to accurate results for resistivity. The magnetometer may have detected a few graves with surviving metal, but since enslaved workers may have been buried without coffins, it was felt that results of this survey may not be accurate. Archeologist Patrick H. Garrow was consulted. He located and mapped forty-two regularly shaped depressions. It appears that the burials were arranged by families (Young 1999, 35-37; Amy L. Young to Arthur L. Jackson, December 21, 1998, NATR Archives). The cemetery contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Northwest Cistern. The northwest cistern is brick partially covered in stucco with a wooden lid, founded on a mounded brick base laid with mortar and at one time stuccoed. Brickwork on the foundation and especially cistern wall is failing and stucco is deteriorated. The east elevation of the foundation is missing several courses, the mortar joints on the cistern cylinder are failing, and brick faces have splintered. In 2009, as a temporary stopgap measure, a post and rope treatment was used to prevent public access to the two cisterns. The northwest cistern in particular is leaning to one side. Although it is in poor condition, the northwest cistern contributes,

Northeast cistern. The northeast cistern is brick with a cement stucco finish and a wooden lid, with a mounded brick foundation that has been compromised by vegetation. In 2009, a post and

rope treatment was added to prevent public access to the two cisterns. The northeast cistern is a contributing landscape feature.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name: Mount Locust

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: Mount Locust-Main Dwelling, MP 15.5

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 011385

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66197

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 Visitor Contact Station

Feature Contribution: Non-contributing, Compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66199

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 rangers' office

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66213

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 pump house

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66216

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 maintenance shop

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66212

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Mission 66 oil and paint storage building

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66215

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Equipment storage shed

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66214

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Chamberlain Family Cemetery

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Cemetery for enslaved workers

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: Mount Locust Slave Cemetery, MP 15.5

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 1138589

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Northwest cistern

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: Mount Locust-Northwest Cistern, MP 15.5

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 1138595

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Northeast cistern

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: Mount Locust-Southwest Cistern, MP 15.5

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 1138600

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Chlorinator Building

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 66217

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

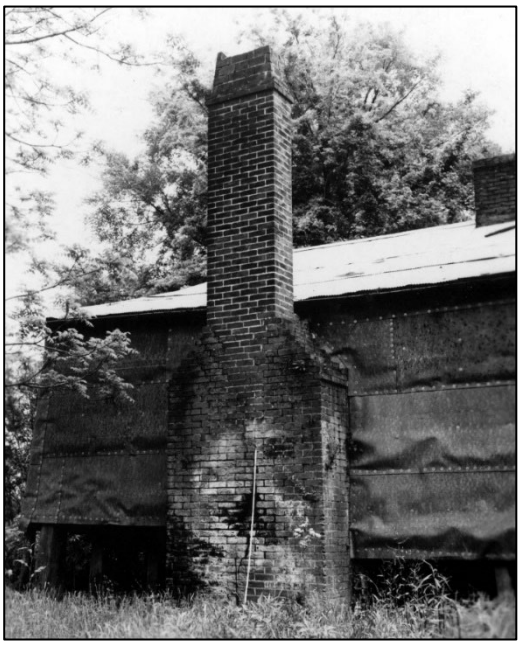


Fig 73. Mount Locust covered in roll-roofing, 1947. (NATR Archives)

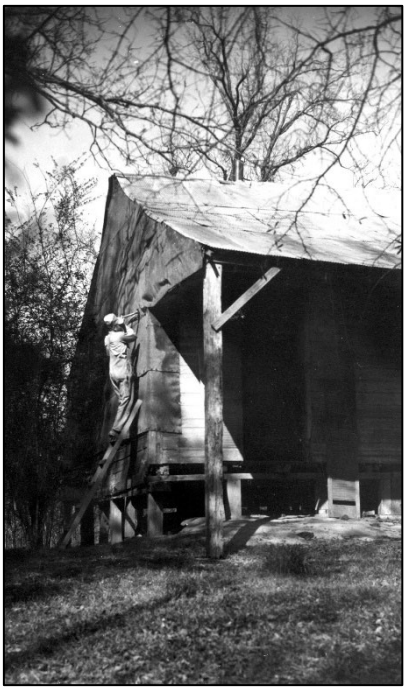


Fig 74. Gordie Whittington working on the restoration, 1956. (NATR archives)



Fig 75. HABS documentation, 1972. (NPS image)



Fig 76. HABS documentation, 1972. (NPS image)



Fig 77. Johnnie Chamberlain, 1957 dedication. (NATR archives)



Fig 78. View of both cisterns, 1961. (NPS image)



Fig 79. Chamberlain Family Cemetery, 1993. (NPS image)

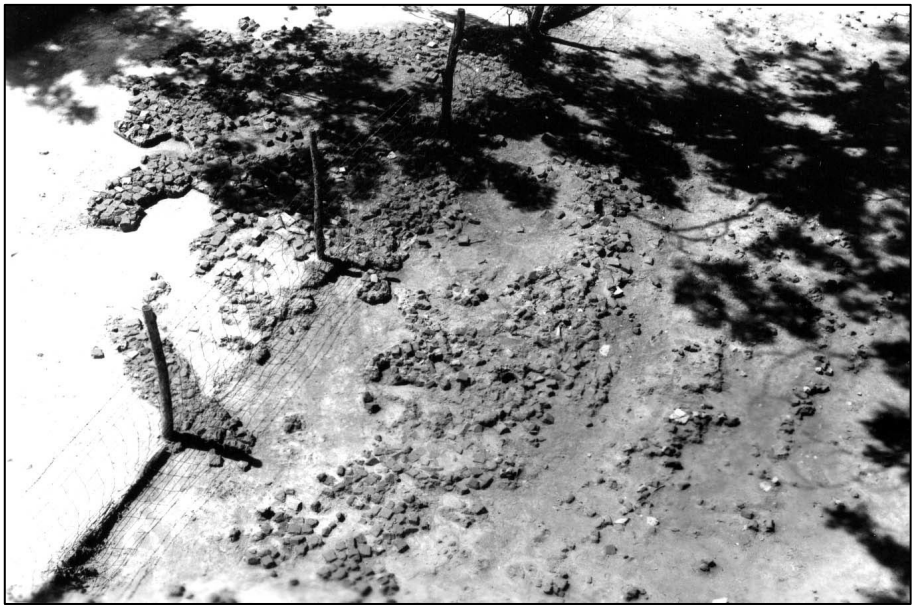


Fig 80. Guest House location, 1941. (NATR archives)



Fig 81. Overseer's House foundation, 1941. (NATR archives)



Fig 82. Brick kiln foundation, 1941. (NATR archives)



Fig 83. Interpretive shelter, 1957. (NATR archives)



Fig 84. Employee residence, 1957. (NATR archives)



Fig 85. Shop and equipment storage, 1957. (NATR archives)

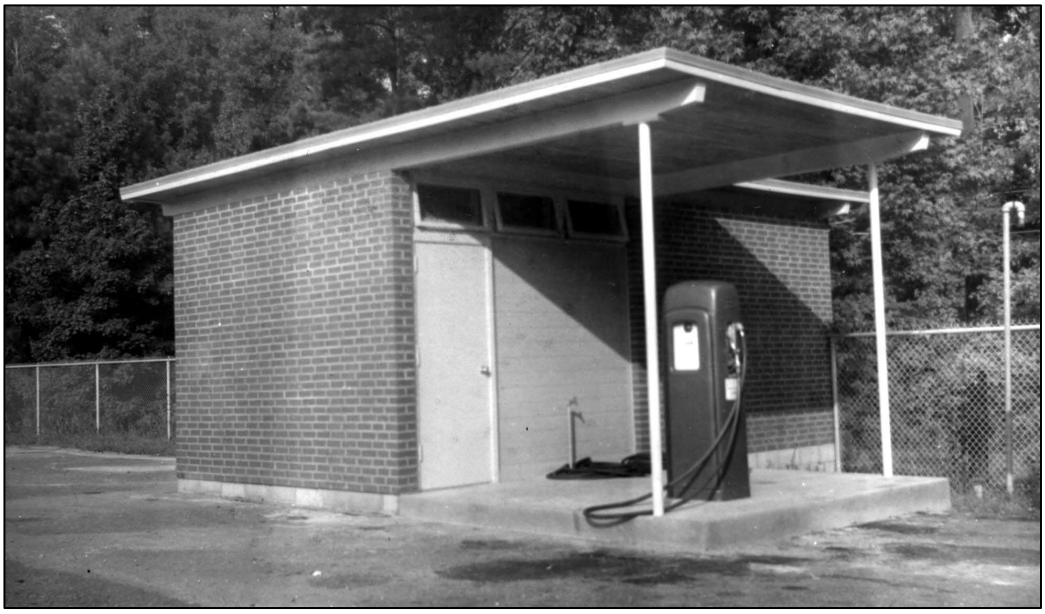


Fig 86. Oil and paint storage, 1960. (NATR archives)

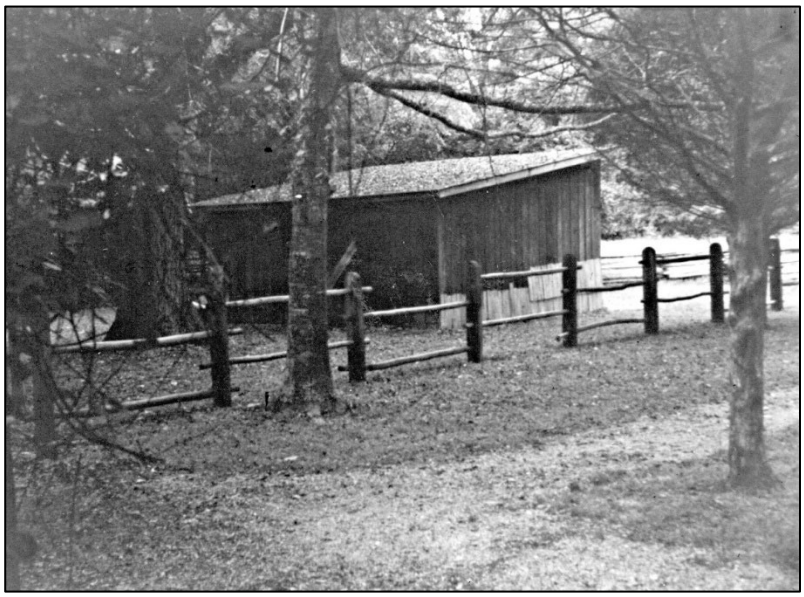


Fig 87. Blacksmith shop, 1970. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 88. Visitor contact station, 1993. (NATR archives)



Fig 89. Mount Locust, front façade, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 90. Mount Locust, rear façade, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 91. Northwest cistern, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 92. Northeast cistern, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 93. Chamberlain Family Cemetery, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 94. Brick kiln foundation, 2007. (NPS image)



Fig 95. Ranger office, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 96. Maintenance shop, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 97. Oil and paint storage shed, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 98. Equipment storage shed, 2007. (NPS image)

Views and Vistas

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived.

Summary:

Because of its location on high ground, the views from Mount Locust out into the surrounding countryside have always been spectacular. The house looks out over the old Natchez Trace and into the fields beyond. The views would have been relatively open from an early time, since the town of Union, just south of the Trace, was laid out in 1799. Also, views north over the Choctaw Flat were probably cleared for planting.

During and after World War II, due to a shortage of funds, various areas along Section 3-W of the Natchez Trace Parkway that normally would have been kept open by mowing were allowed to grow up in forest undergrowth. Beginning in September 1957 and ending in June 1958, certain areas were cleared of small trees and undergrowth to open views. Top soil to correct erosion was placed where needed and the area seeded and fertilized (Project Completion Report, January 1959, NATR Archives).

Views southeast from the front gallery of the house look out across the Old Natchez Trace to the open space that was once the town of Union. Views north from the back gallery of the house look out over the Choctaw Flat.

View southeast from the front gallery of the house. Views southeast from the front gallery of the house look out across the Old Natchez Trace to the open space that was once the town of Union. Although the town of Union is no longer extant, it was most likely sparsely settled, and the lack of visual intrusion southeast of the house is a character-defining feature and remains from the historic period. This view is therefore contributing to the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Views north from the back gallery of the house over Choctaw Flat. The location of Mount Locust on a high spot gave the house a commanding view not only out over the Natchez Trace and the town of Union to the south but also of the Choctaw Flat to the north. This view was similarly open and lacked visual intrusion, a character-defining feature that remains today. This view is a contributing feature to the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Landscape Features

Feature Name: View southeast from the front gallery of the house

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Views north from the back gallery of the house over Choctaw Flat

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]



Fig 99. View out over Choctaw flat, 1957. (NATR archives)

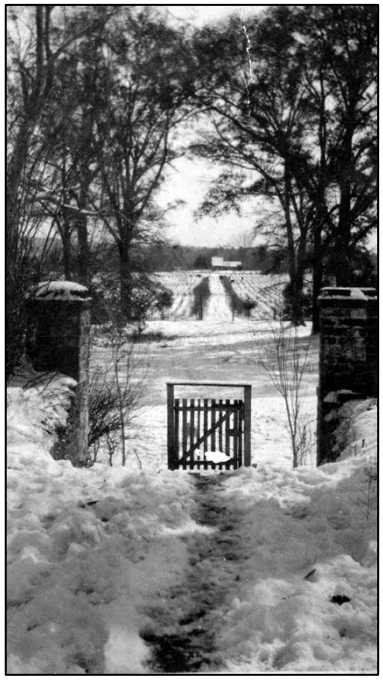


Fig 100. View across the Old Trace, 1918. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 101. View from the front gallery, 2022. (NPS image)



Fig 102. View across the Choctaw flat, 2022. (NPS image)

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

Summary:

Small-scale features at Mount Locust include extensive wood fencing, a grape arbor, a wrought iron fence around the Chamberlain Family Cemetery, a DAR marker, information kiosk, and reproduction dinner bell.

Wood fencing.

Joseph Holt Ingraham described the lack of fencing in cultivated areas around Natchez:

> The absence of fences is a peculiarity of southern farms. As their proprietors cultivate but one article as a staple, there is no necessity of intersecting their lands by fences, as at the north, where every farm is cut up into many portions, appropriated to a variety of productions. To a northern eye, a large extent of cultivated country, without a fence, or scarcely a dwelling, would present a singular appearance; but a short residence in the south will soon render one familiar with such scenery where no other meets the eye. The few fences, however, that exist on plantations, for defining boundaries, confining public roads, and fencing in the pasture lands—which, instead of broad green fields as in New-England, are the woods and cane-brakes—are of the most unsightly kind. With a gently undulating surface and a diversity of vale and wood scenery unrivalled, the natural loveliness of this state is disfigured by zigzag, or Virginia fences, which stretch along the sides of the most charming roads, surround the loveliest cottages, or rudely encroach upon the snowy palings that enclose them, and intersect the finest eminences and fairest campaigns (Ingraham 1835, 107-108).

Prior to Ingraham's arrival in the 1830s, plantation and farm sale advertisements described other types of fences, such as the sassafras rail and stake-and-rider fences. Family tradition recalls that Mount Locust had a split rail fence made of red oak and sassafras (Carriere 1980, 5).

No documentation has been found of the fences in place during the nineteenth century. Historic photographs from the 1930s show a combination of crude paling, post-and-rail, and wire fences. The front gate was of a picket construction and painted white. Another early landscape element was a brick retaining wall with columns on either side of the front steps leading up to the house. This is said by family members to date to the 1840s. It was removed by the NPS when the site was restored to its condition in 1820, as were the wire and board fences.

The NPS built a fence around the main house in 1944 as a protective measure against fire and vandalism. The area within the fence was cleaned of tall grass, weeds, and debris after the structure was stabilized (Kaye 1998, Section G).

In 1958, a Garden and Residence Plan was prepared that included a post-and-rail garden fence. Prior to the dedication of Mount Locust in 1957, Virginia fencing was installed around the perimeter of the property. Also part of the 1958 Garden and Residence Plan was a grape arbor and brick seat wall (604/2888, Planting, Walks, & Dev. Plan, February 1958). It is not known when the post-and-rail fence and brick seat wall were removed, but both can be seen in photographs from the 1980s.

Today, Virginia rail fencing, installed in the 1950s, delimits the house and work yard from the larger historic landscape that was once planted in crops. The NPS removed all of the wire and board fences that can be seen in historic photographs from the 1930s. The 1950s Virginia rail fencing is a contributing feature to the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Grape arbor. A grape arbor west of the house is the only surviving landscape feature from the 1958 Walks and Development Plan. Like the Virginia rail fencing it was constructed of oak and pine. As part of a 1958 plan, it contributes to the significance of the Mount Locust cultural landscape.

Wrought iron fence. A new wrought iron fence erected around the Chamberlain Family Cemetery in 1995 allows visitors to view the cemetery from outside the fence. A chain-link fence

had previously surrounded the cemetery, with no visitor access (Superintendent's Annual Report, 1995, NATR Archives; personal communication, Rick Chamberlain). Due to its age, the wrought iron fence is noncontributing but compatible.

DAR marker. A DAR marker dedicated at Mount Locust in 2004 is located near the visitor contact station. Due to its age, the DAR marker is noncontributing but compatible.

Information kiosk. An information kiosk is located near the visitor contact station and DAR marker. Due to its age, the kiosk is noncontributing but compatible.

Reproduction dinner bell. A reproduction dinner bell stands near the asphalt path that leads to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery. Due to its age, the reproduction dinner bell is noncontributing but compatible.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name: Wood fencing

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Grape arbor

Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: Mount Locust-Grape Arbor, MP 15.5

CRIS-HS Resource ID: 1138593

FMSS Record Type: Location

FMSS Record Number: 1569975

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Wrought iron fence

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: DAR marker

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Information kiosk

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Number: [enter text here]

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: [enter selection here]

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]

Feature Name: Reproduction dinner bell

Feature Contribution: Noncontributing, compatible

Latitude: [enter text here]

Longitude: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource name: [enter text here]

CRIS-HS Resource ID: [enter text here]

FMSS Record Type: Asset

FMSS Record Number: 1586770

Is FMSS Record Exact Match?: Yes

Associated CRIS-AR Resource ID: [enter text here]



Fig 103. Side gate, 1929. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 104. Board fences, 1939. (NATR archives)



Fig 105. Wire fences, 1940. (NATR archives)

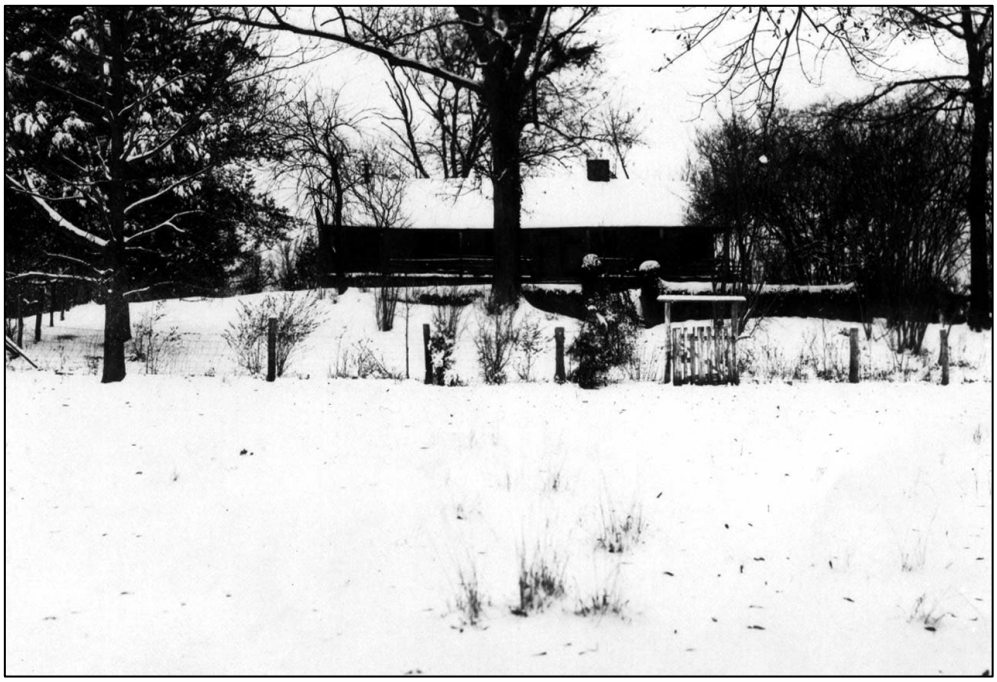


Fig 106. Front gate, 1929. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)

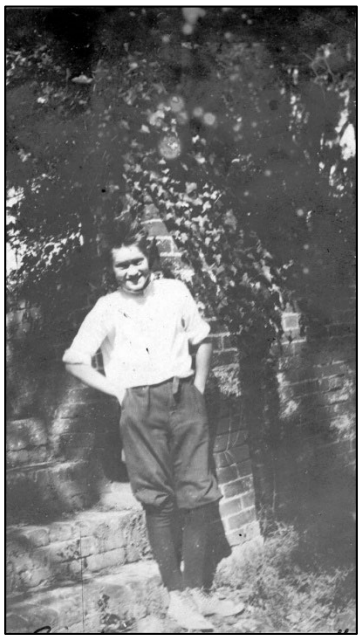


Fig 107. Brick retaining wall and steps. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)

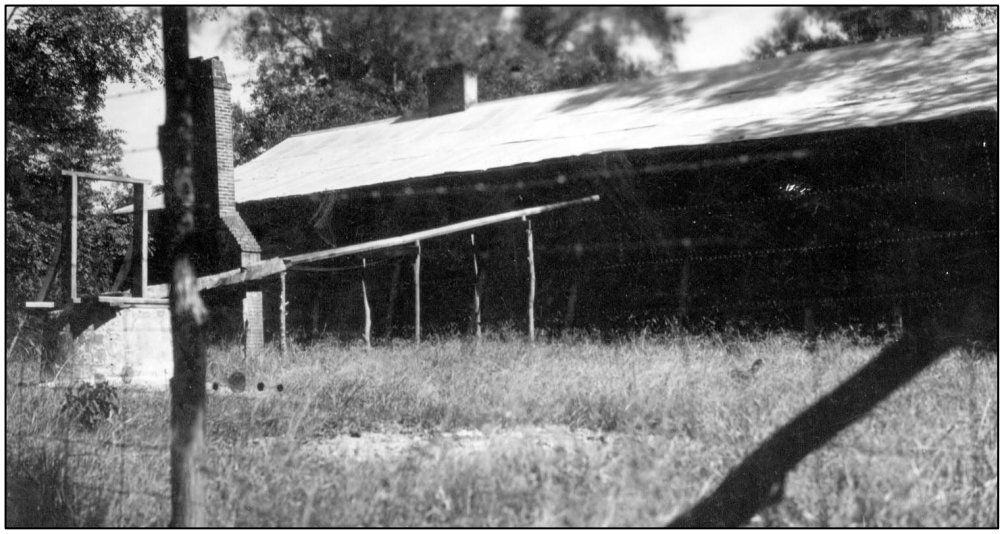


Fig 108. Drainpipe, 1944. (NATR archives)

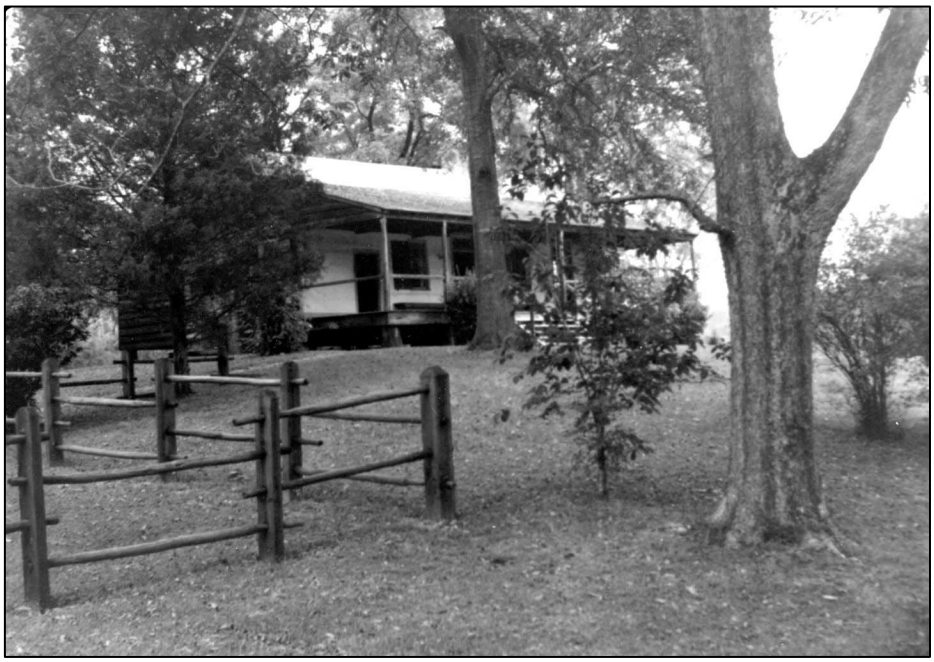


Fig 109. Garden fence, 1970s. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 110. Grape arbor, 1959. (NATR archives)



Fig 111. New wrought iron fence, 2007. (NPS image)

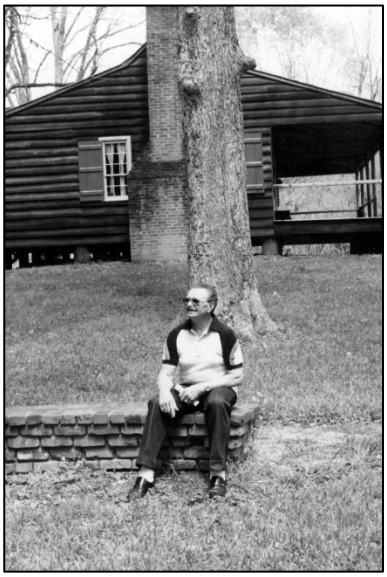


Fig 112. Brick wall seat, 1986. (Courtesy of Eric Chamberlain)



Fig 113. Virginia rail fencing, 2010. (NPS image)

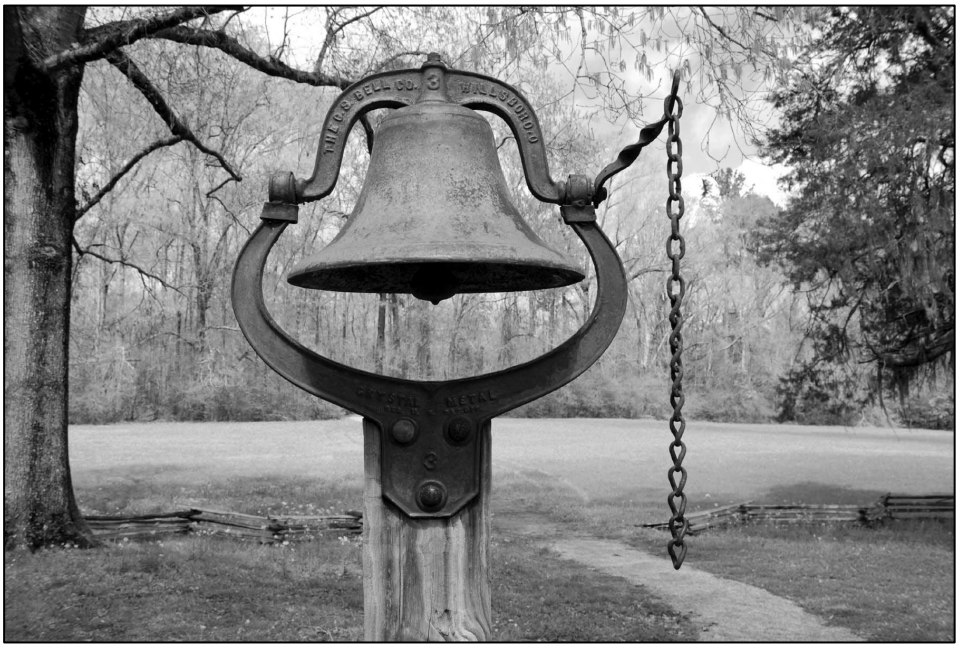


Fig 114. Reproduction dinner bell, 2010. (NPS image)

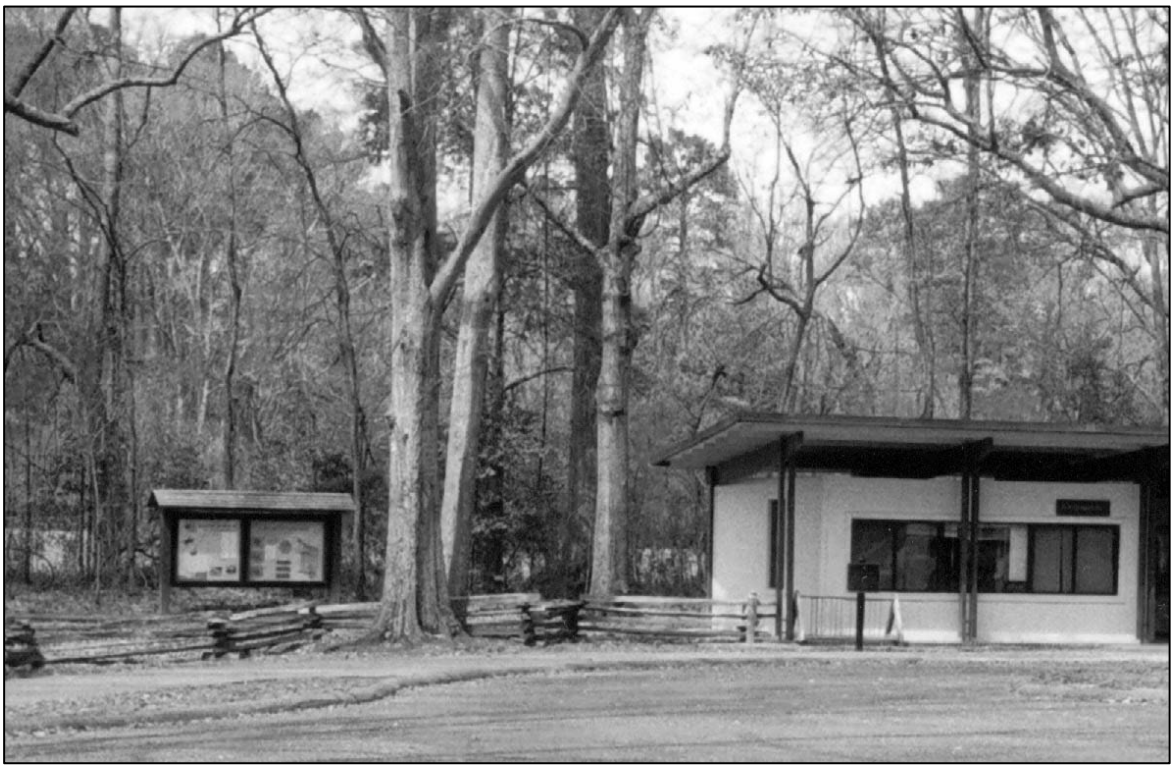


Fig . Information kiosk, 2007. (NPS image)

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report.

Summary:

Archeological investigations were conducted at Mount Locust in 1941, 1975, 1996, 1998, 2002, and 2003. The 1941 study identified the location of the kitchen, guest house, and overseer's house but failed to locate the nursery or the enslaved quarters. The 1941 study found no evidence of a stockade, Native American mound, or any previous dwelling house.

In 1975, SEAC performed archeological testing to gather information on the brick walkway in front of the dwelling house. An excavation trench perpendicular to the long access of the existing path exposed a 30-foot section of bricks laid in a herringbone pattern. Examination of the bricks from both walks did not yield enough information to say whether the excavated walk predated the existing walk (Chief, Southeast Archeological Center to Associate Regional Director, April 17, 1975).

Archeology conducted at the Chamberlain Family Cemetery in 1996 indicated that prehistoric cultural occupation was limited to the early Coles Creek period, between 600-800 A.D. The recovery of pottery sherds in association with substantial quantities of fired clay, fire-cracked chert, and charred wood indicated extended, sedentary use of the site. Whether the occupation was permanent or semi-permanent on an annual basis is unknown, but houses appear to have been present, animals hunted, and natural products collected, as indicated by the numerous nutshell fragments and seed of the fall-maturing persimmon fruit.

The excavations indicated that the Chamberlain Family Cemetery mound did not originate due to artificial construction by Native Americans but rather was another of the natural erosional remnants so common to the Natchez Bluffs physiographic region (Atkinson 1996, 29).

Archeology conducted in 1998 mapped the cemetery for enslaved workers, identifying forty-two regularly shaped depressions. Archeological reconnaissance behind the main house discovered clusters of artifacts that may relate to enslaved quarters but failed to uncover undisturbed deposits (Young 1999, 40).

During construction of a handicapped accessible trail in 2002, a number of archeological features were identified. The remains of two historic brick structures were uncovered behind the dwelling house. Both of these structures were excavated and identified during the archeology conducted in the 1940s. One was a brick wall footer surrounding the extant cistern northwest of the house, and the other was a brick floor identified in the early excavation as a kitchen. There was no definitive evidence collected in 2002 that determined the structure was a kitchen. Six postholes

associated with at least two prehistoric Native American structures were identified. All of the features identified were documented and mitigated so that trail construction could proceed (Charles F. Lawson to Director, Southeast Archeological Center, October 24, 2002).

A geophysical survey and subsequent archeological investigation in 2003 of the field located southwest of the dwelling house identified what is apparently a Native American village site. Based on the results of the GPR survey and previous investigation in 2002, the site contains at least seven Native American structures. Five of these are circular in shape and arranged linearly in a northeastern direction across the back half of the center of the field. It is probable that this line continues across the entire field and meets the location where postholes were identified in 2002.

Historic components identified included a buried two-track road or trail in the northernmost section of the field, a large pit feature in the southeast part of the field near the entrance to the Chamberlain Family Cemetery, and a construction trench or foundation of a structure in the center of the field. Maintenance workers remembered driving in the vicinity of the buried road when a blacksmith shop was located there in the 1970s. The feature found in the center of the field could represent the stable or chicken house recalled by Rick Chamberlain (Charles F. Lawson to Director, Southeast Archeological Center, June 27, 2003).

Geophysical survey and subsequent subsurface archeological investigation of the field southwest of the dwelling house in 2003 identified what is apparently a Native American village site. From the limited excavations that occurred, the site appears to be in excellent condition and has been subjected to very little disturbance since its original deposition.

Chapter 9: Condition Assessment

Assessment Interval:

6

Condition

Condition:

Good

Condition Date:

07/13/2022

Primary Inspector Name:

[opt. enter name here]

Profession/Credentials:

[opt. enter selection here]

Narrative:

Although Mount Locust and its environs are susceptible to some negative impacts, the overall condition of the Mount Locust cultural landscape is characterized as "good." Most of Mount Locust's trees, with the exception of large specimen trees, were planted in 1958 and are in poor condition often due to improper maintenance, and inaccurate planting of euonymus for the earlier period of significance near the foundation of the house diminishes historic integrity. Additionally, poison ivy threatens the grape arbor. Deferred maintenance of damage to the house due to events like hurricanes has impacted the structural integrity of the house. The only other two extant above-ground structures from the 1779-1829 period of significance have suffered structural deterioration and need to be stabilized and repaired.

Impacts

Seq. No.	Type	Impact Type – Other	Internal Source?	External Source?	Narrative	Date Identified
xx			Yes/No	Yes/No	1000 Char.	mm/dd/yyyy
	Vegetation/Invasive Plants		Yes	No	With the exception of large specimen trees, most of the trees were planted in 1958, and many are in poor condition. A certified arborist should assess the condition of the trees and develop a preservation plan for their long-term care. Euonymus was planted near the foundation of the dwelling house, although foundation plantings were not common in the 1820s. These should be removed. Poison ivy has threatened the grape arbor and should be kept out.	07/2009

	Inappropriate Maintenance		Yes	No	Several small trees have been damaged or lost due to improper maintenance practices. Care should be taken to avoid wounds to the trunk of trees, especially common when using mowers and string weed trimmers.	07/2009
	Deferred Maintenance		Yes	No	Windows damaged as a result of leaking water during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 were not replaced until 2009, and the roof was not replaced until 2007. Repairs should be made in a more timely manner	07/2009

	Structural Deterioration		Yes	No	The northeast and northwest cisterns are currently roped off as a safety precaution due to structural deterioration. Steps toward repair and stabilization should begin with archeological investigation of the interior. Then repoint the brickwork and parge inside and out with a lime-based pargin material, not Portland cement, as the spalling suggests that the bricks are not hard-fired. Consider filling the repaired cisterns with sand or water to provide the internal pressure needed to keep them from collapsing. Finally, re-establish the appropriate grade around the cisterns.	07/2009

Chapter 10: Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Stabilization Measure Narrative (R)	Stabilization Cost (R)	Stabilization Cost Date (R)	Estimate Level (R)	Cost Estimator (R)	Cost Narrative
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Approved Treatments

Type	Com-pleted	Approved Treatment Doc.	Doc Date	Narrative	Approved Treatment Cost	Cost Date	Estimate Level	Estimator	Cost Narrative
Preservation		Cultural Landscape Report	7/2009						

Chapter 11: Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

See attached Excel spreadsheet.

Supplemental Information

Seq. No.	Supplemental Information Title	Supplemental Information Narrative
N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix A

Landscape Features

Seq. No.	Feature Name	Feature Contri-bution	CLI Feature ID	Latitude	Longitude	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match?	CRIS-AR ID
	Natural Systems and Features										
	Coles Creek	Contributing									
	Spatial Organization										
	Dwelling house as the centerpiece of the Mount Locust landscape	Contributing									
	Location of Mount Locust adjacent to historic Natchez Trace	Contributing									
	Clustering of NPS buildings and structures to the east of the dwelling house	Contributing									
	Field Patterns	Contributing									
	Land Use										
	Recreation and Interpretation	Contributing									
	Burial	Contributing									
	Topography										

	Location of house on high ground	Contributing									
	Location of Chamberlain Family Cemetery on high ground	Contributing									
	Vegetation										
	Large specimen trees	Contributing									
	Chamberlain Family Cemetery vegetation	Contributing									
	1958 Planting plan	Contributing									
	Euonymus foundation plantings	Noncontributing, incompatible									
	Circulation										
	Natchez Trace Parkway	Contributing									
	Mission 66 entrance road from parkway to the Visitor Center	Contributing									
	Mission 66 parking area	Contributing									
	Mission 66 service road	Contributing									
	Old Trace trail	Contributing									
	Brick walk system	Contributing									

	Gravel trail leading from Old Trace to Chamberlain Family Cemetery and brick kiln	Contributing									
	ADA Asphalt trail from back porch to grape arbor	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Chip seal trail	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Historic approach from the Old Trace to Mount Locust	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Buildings and Structures										
	Mount Locust	Contributing				Mount Locust-Main Dwelling, MP 15.5	011385				
	Mission 66 Visitor Contact Station	Contributing									
	Mission 66 rangers' office	Contributing									
	Mission 66 pump house	Contributing									
	Mission 66 maintenance shop	Noncontributing, compatible									

	Mission 66 oil and paint storage building	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Equipment storage shed	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Chamberlain Family Cemetery	Contributing									
	Cemetery for enslaved workers	Contributing				Mount Locust Slave Cemetery, MP 15.5	1138589				
	Northwest cistern	Contributing				Mount Locust-Northwest Cistern, MP 15.5	1138595				
	Northeast cistern	Contributing				Mount Locust-Southwest Cistern, MP 15.5	1138600				
	Views and Vistas										
	View southeast from the front gallery of the house	Contributing									
	View north from the back gallery of the house over Choctaw Flat	Contributing									
	Small-Scale Features										

	Wood fencing	Contributing									
	Grape arbor	Contributing									
	Wrought iron fence	Noncontributing, compatible									
	DAR Marker	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Information kiosk	Noncontributing, compatible									
	Reproduction dinner bell	Noncontributing, compatible									