

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **JUN 20 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Colonel James Drane House

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number Natchez Trace Parkway 1/2 mile north of Miss. Hwy #413 N/A not for publication

city, town French Camp N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Choctaw code 19

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name French Camp Academy

street & number N/A

city, town French Camp N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Choctaw County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Ackerman state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>August 1981</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Colonel James Drane House is constructed of clapboarded, heavy-timber frame in the vernacular I-house form, which was popular during the nineteenth century throughout the Southeast. Its floor plan consists of a central hall flanked by two rooms on each level. A full-width, shed-roof porch, supported by simple square posts, sheltered the first story of the facade and was balanced by a one-story, shed-roof appendage across the rear, which contained two cabinet rooms and a central loggia-type porch. However, a significant variation in the typical form of the I-house building type is Colonel Drane's interpretation of the first story central hall as an open breezeway or dogtrot which could be closed off by large hinged doors on both the front and rear sides. Access to the second story is gained by means of a partially enclosed, quarter-turn stairway which rises from the rear porch. Evidence of an original, enclosed, interior stair has been found in what is known as the "sitting room."

The interior woodworks are amazingly well preserved and are among the best examples of folk interpretation of Federal Style decoration left in Mississippi. The first story rooms are ornamented with chair rail and wainscoting and display their original, folk paint colors. The mantels, which are simultaneously sophisticated and naive, are unexcelled in the state as folk renderings of Federal design. The sitting room mantel employs elyptically-sectioned columns to support a break-front entablature and stacked shelf and is painted to resemble red and blue stone. Other mantels exhibit a profusion of reeding, which ornaments pilasters, in-set panels, facia and entablatures. All interior walls and ceilings are covered with original horizontal board paneling.

In August of 1981 to save the building from eventual demolition, the Colonel James Drane House was acquired by French Camp Academy and moved to a nearby site (which closely resembles the building's original setting) owned by the school along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Subsequent to relocation, funds were raised to install a new wood-shingle roof (duplicating the original roofing) and to stabilize the structure. Work continues on rebuilding the porches and cabinet rooms which were removed for transporting the building. All work is being done in accordance with review by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and is based on extensive analysis of the original building fabric conducted by the Department of Archives and History staff (restoration drawings enclosed). When restoration is complete the Drane House will be operated as a house museum and crafts demonstration center on the Natchez Trace in conjunction with the educational programs of French Camp Academy.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1846-1848 **Builder/Architect** James Drane

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonel James Drane House, constructed between 1846 and 1848, was the residence of Choctaw County's most prominent early settler and is one of only a few antebellum structures remaining in the county. In addition to its historical associations, the building is highly significant in the architectural history of Mississippi as an example of the blending of folk architecture with sophisticated (albeit anachronistic) ornamentation borrowed from the east coast.

Colonel Drane (1808-1869), a native of Columbia County, Georgia, settled in Choctaw County in 1836 and was elected to the state house of representatives in 1839, where he served until 1850. At that time, Drane became the district's state senator, and from 1857 to 1865, he was president of the senate, an office comparable to the present office of lieutenant governor (James P. Coleman, Choctaw County Chronicles: A History of Choctaw County, Mississippi, 1830-1973 [Ackerman, Miss.: J. P. Coleman, 1973], pp. 48-50). Drane was a major contender in the 1857 and 1859 gubernatorial contests but withdrew his name from nomination in 1859 to be with his wife after learning that she had contracted a terminal illness (Coleman, pp. 48-49).

The Drane residence, which was originally located approximately six miles northeast of French Camp near the community of New Haven, is a well-preserved and architecturally important representative of the frontier I-house building type. The house is unusual for its combination of the two-story I-house form with that of the regionally popular dogtrot type and for its exceptionally fine interior woodwork (discussed in the Physical Description) which far excelled that of the average frontier dwelling. Although moved from its original location to prevent its demolition, the Drane House has been well documented and its details pains-takenly preserved, allowing the structure to retain its architectural significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Coleman, James P. Choctaw County Chronicles: A History of Choctaw County, Mississippi, 1830-1973. Ackerman, Miss.: J. P. Coleman, 1973.

P'Pool, Kenneth H., architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Inspections of the Colonel James Drane House, 1981-1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1.43 acres

Quadrangle name French Camp, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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 Zone

2	7	6	4	7	5
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 Easting

3	6	8	6	4	1	0
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 Northing

B

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

C

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

D

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

E

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

F

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

G

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

H

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with right angle corners and equal sides of 250 feet each with the center being the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The sides of the figure are parallel to the walls of the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Richard Cannon, President

organization French Camp Academy

date April 8, 1983

street & number N/A

telephone (601) 547-6482

city or town French Camp

state Mississippi

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



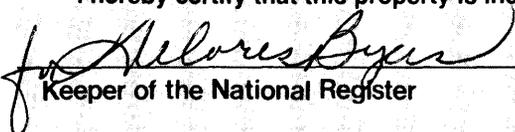
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 10, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

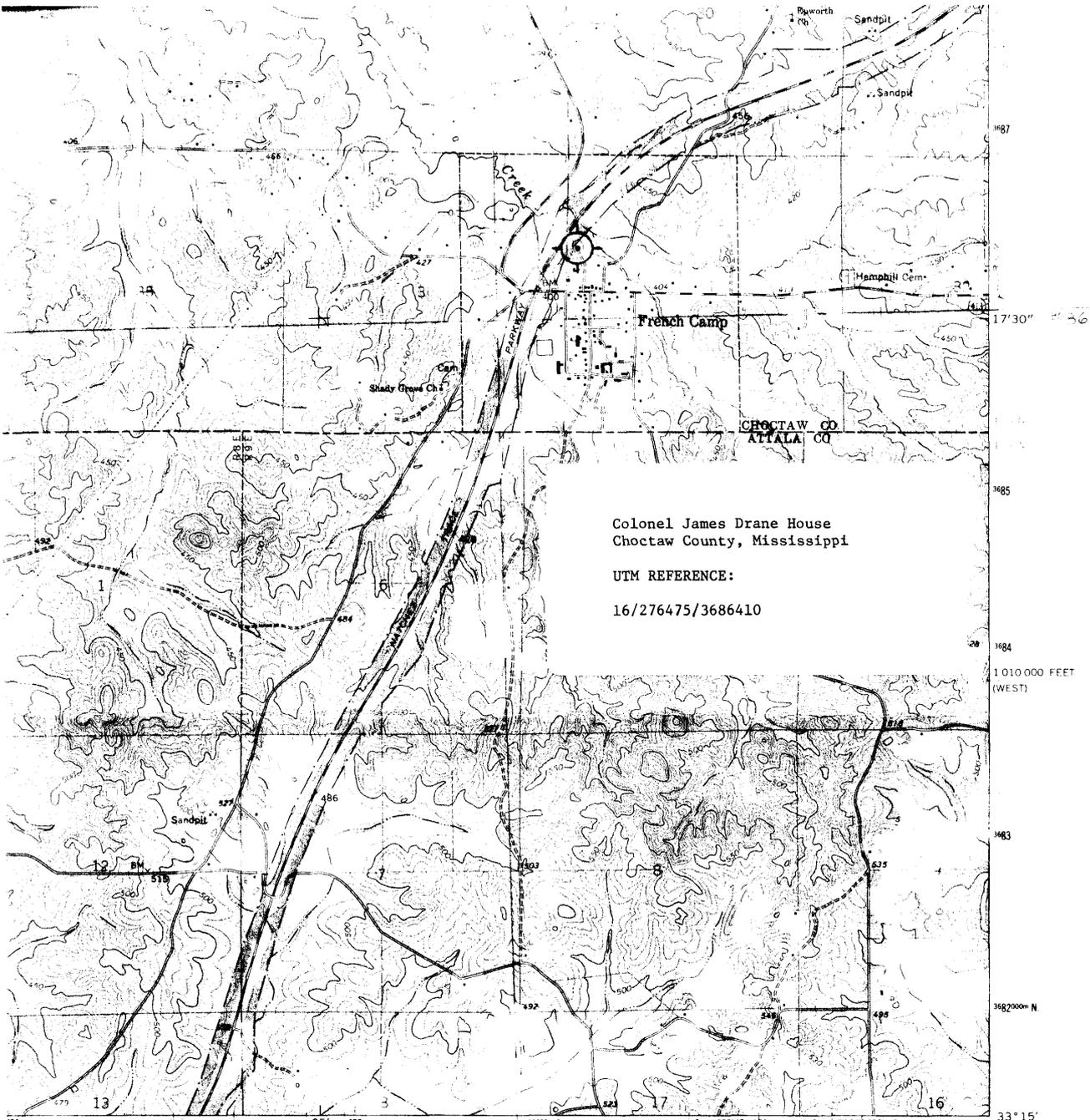

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/21/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Colonel James Drane House
Choctaw County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCE:
16/276475/3686410



± 10 FEET
± 4 LEVEL

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
GEOGRAPHIC SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Unimproved dirt - - - - -
 State Route

FRENCH CAMP, MISS.
N3315—W8922.5/7.5

1966

AMS 3150 IV SW—SERIES V843