

PH 366781

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 7 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fair Oaks, Woodbourne, Green Oak
AND/OR COMMON
Fair Oaks (since 1856)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Route 3, Box 316
CITY, TOWN: Natchez
STATE: Mississippi
VICINITY OF: Fourth
CODE: 28
COUNTY: Adams
CODE: 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Bazile R. Lanneau
STREET & NUMBER: Route 3, Box 316
CITY, TOWN: Natchez
STATE: Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Adams County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER: Market Street
CITY, TOWN: Natchez
STATE: Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Adams County Landmark Inventory
DATE: 1974
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Natchez Metropolitan Planning Commission
CITY, TOWN: Natchez
STATE: Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the west side of U.S. Highway 61, six miles south of Natchez, Mississippi, is "Fair Oaks," a one-and-a-half-story frame structure apparently dating from c. 1822, with subsequent additions. The residence faces north, with a single original brick outbuilding placed a few feet away from its southeast corner. As originally constructed, Fair Oaks consisted of a row of five large rooms of unequal dimensions between front and rear galleries. As is characteristic of the Natchez region, the wall surfaces protected by the galleries are stucco-on-frame above paneled dados and baseboards. Slender Doric columns divide the facade into seven bays and directly support the plate without benefit of an intermediary entablature. The entrance is placed on the center axis and is marked by a handsome frontispiece with a ten-paneled door, sidelights with sham mullions, delicately molded pilasters, a returned cornice and a semi-elliptical transom. Symmetrically flanking the frontispiece, which is repeated on the rear elevation, are six-over-six double-hung windows fitted with their original blinds. Shortly after the initial construction phase, jib doors were added below the sills of four front windows, and the end bays of the rear gallery were enclosed to form two small rooms or cabinets.

The interior trim of the original portion of Fair Oaks is characteristic of the Federal style in the Natchez area. Mantels are wooden, designed with columns of stylized Roman orders, three-or five-part friezes, and returned shelves. Door and window architraves are symmetrically molded with double backbands and corner blocks. Of special note is the wide drawing room frontispiece which repeats the design and detail of the entrances.

By 1840, a wing containing a dining room and pantry had been added to the rear of Fair Oaks, leaving only two small areas of open gallery between it and the cabinets. The rear entrance frontispiece became a focal point of the room and the new woodwork was carefully matched to it. A marble mantel with simple pilasters, uncarved frieze, and shelf was the only concession to the current Greek Revival fashion. Hanging in the center of the dining room is a large punkah, or fan, designed as an abstract female figure. Twentieth century alterations to the rear section of Fair Oaks include installation of a modern kitchen in the former pantry space, enclosing of the remnants of the rear gallery, installation of bathrooms in the cabinets, and the addition of porches on either side of the dining room wing.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Associated with
locally prominent families

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1822 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since its construction in c. 1822, Fair Oaks has achieved local prominence as the residence of several important families of the fashionable Second Creek neighborhood six miles south of Natchez, Mississippi. In addition, the structure is architecturally significant as an interesting vernacular form possessed of sophisticated, well-calculated and skillfully joined interior woodwork. Its wainscotted gallery and dining room punkah are important architectural characteristics peculiar to the Natchez region.

Originally called Green Oak, the present house was almost certainly built by Henry W. Huntington and his wife, Helen Dunbar Huntington, on a portion of Sir William Dunbar's plantation, the Forest. Although the property was not transferred until 1825, the records of the Adams County Board of Road Commissioners mentions "Mr. Huntington's new house" on August 8, 1822 (p. 14), and again on February 21, 1825 (p. 96). It seems clear that Huntington began construction of his residence on his father-in-law's property with the assurance that it would eventually become his.

Financial reverses were to overcome the Huntingtons, and they were forced to sell part of their Green Oak estate. Sixty-nine and one-half acres, including the house site, were purchased by John Hutchins in 1836 (Deed Book, Z:159). As the residence of John Hutchins, the dwelling and surrounding acreage were renamed Woodbourne. Hutchins acquired an additional 100.51 acres in 1840 when he purchased "a tract of land being part of a plantation called Green Oak, lately the residence and property of Henry W. Huntington" (Deed Book, EE:148). John Hutchins subsequently sold these two tracts to his son, John O. Hutchins (Deed Book, GG:601), who resided there with his wife from 1849 until 1856. In that year, Dr. Orrick Metcalfe purchased the house along with 100 acres (Deed Book, KK: 580) to utilize the slaves, livestock, and farming equipment his wife had inherited from her father.

Dr. Metcalfe renamed the plantation Fair Oaks in 1856, adding adjoining acreages in 1859 (Deed Book, MM:248) and in 1881 (Deed Book, XX:170). The doctor, a Yale alumnus holding degrees in both law and medicine, had served Jefferson College in Washington, Mississippi, first as a professor and later as a member of the board of trustees. With the purchase of Fair Oaks, he added cotton planting to his work as a practicing physician for the surrounding countryside.

The house and plantation have remained in the hands of Dr. Metcalfe's decendants until the present, the dwelling and surrounding acres having been purchased by his great grandson, Bazile R. Lanneau, and wife, Ann Metcalfe Lanneau, in 1963 (Deed Book, 9-U:76). The current owners have sensitively restored and maintained Fair Oaks, furnishing it with family possessions, many of which were purchased by Dr. Metcalfe in the 1850s. The setting enjoys considerable integrity, remaining almost unchanged since the territorial period, except for the intrusion of a two-lane highway approximately 200 feet from the side front of the dwelling house and approximately 80 feet from the rear of the brick outbuilding. The home has been opened to the public during the Natchez Pilgrimage each spring since 1965.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books; Spanish Record Books.

Butler, Pierce. The Unhurried Years; Memories of the Old Natchez Region.
Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1948.

Cuming, Fortescue. Sketches of a Tour to the Western Country. . . . Pittsburgh, Pa.: Cramer, Spear & Eichbaum, 1810.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.4

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 1, 5</u>	<u>6, 5, 3</u>	<u>6, 8, 0</u> ⁷⁰⁰	<u>3, 4, 8, 0</u>	<u>5, 7, 5</u> ⁶⁰⁰	B	<u>1, 1, 5</u>	<u>6, 5, 3</u>	<u>6, 8, 0</u> ⁷⁰⁰	<u>3, 4, 8, 0</u>	<u>2, 5, 0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	<u>1, 1, 5</u>	<u>6, 5, 3</u>	<u>4, 0, 0</u>	<u>3, 4, 8, 0</u>	<u>2, 5, 0</u>	D	<u>1, 1, 5</u>	<u>6, 5, 3</u>	<u>4, 0, 0</u>	<u>3, 4, 8, 0</u>	<u>5, 7, 5</u> ⁶⁰⁰
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Fair Oaks is divided into two tracts described as follows:

A: From the intersection of the centerline of U.S. Highway No. 61 South from Natchez, Mississippi, as presently existing, and the centerline of Blair Bayou, being highway centerline Station 443+68.4, go southerly along the centerline of U.S. Highway No. 61 South for 229.2 feet; thence at right angles in a westerly direction for 50.0 feet to an iron pipe on the westerly right-of-way of said highway for the point of beginning;

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

August 26, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

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

Robert J. Bailey

DATE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

September 29, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-10-76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles F. [Signature]

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The setting, and possibly the house itself, are presently endangered by the proposed widening of U.S. Highway 61 South. The project is in its planning stages and will require federal funds for implementation.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hamilton, William Baskerville. Anglo-American Law on the Frontier: Thomas Rodney & His Territorial Cases. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1953.
- Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. John F. H. Claiborne Papers. Microfilm.
- James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.
- Metcalf, Helen Catherine Gillespie. "Memoirs." Unpublished. Natchez, Mississippi, 1889.
- New Orleans. Tulane University Library. William D. Mercer Papers. Records of the Class of 1845 of Yale College. N.p.: Jenkins and Thomas, 1881.
- Swearington, Mack B. The Early Life of George Poindexter. New Orleans: Tulane University Press, 1934.
- Sydnor, Charles S. A Gentleman of the Old Natchez Region: Benjamin L. C. Wailes. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1938.
- [Tompkins, Frank H.] Natchez: Historical and Picturesque. [Chicago:] R. R. Donnelly & Sons Co., [1902].
- Young, Mrs. Robert. "A Tradition of the Second Creek Valley - A.D. 1772 to 1820." Unpublished. 1905.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

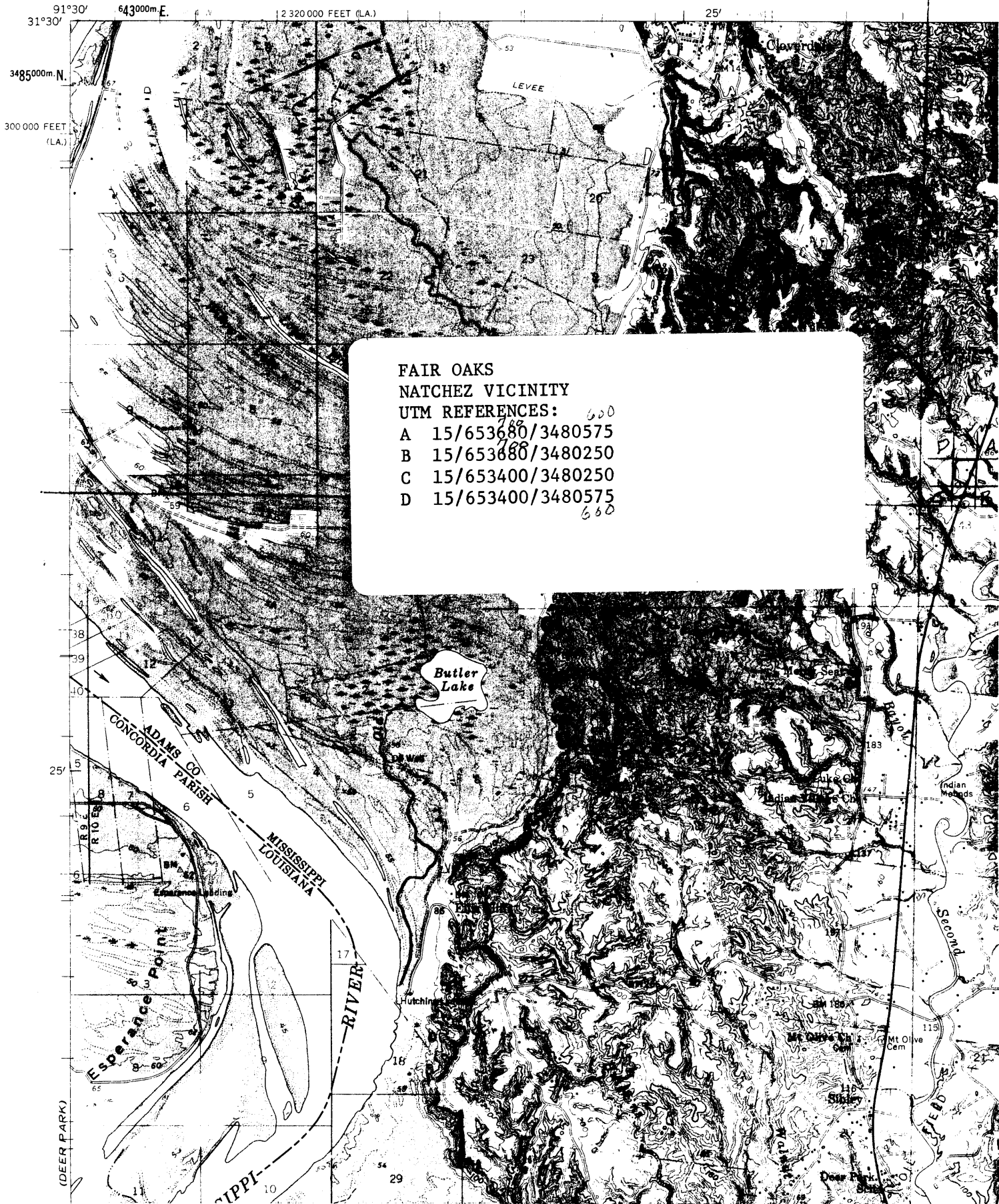
10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

thence from said point of beginning go southerly along said westerly right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 61 South for 756.2 feet to an iron pipe; thence N 88° 53' W for 232.5 feet to an iron pipe; thence N 21° 35' W for 688.2 feet to an iron pipe; thence N 84° 37' E for 738.5 feet more or less to the point of beginning, said within described tract containing 7.5 acres, more or less.

B: Beginning at the most westerly corner of Tract "A," as recorded in Deed Book 9U, page 76 of the records of Adams County, Mississippi, go S 84° 37' W for 145.0 feet; thence S 13° 07' E for 744.44 feet; thence N 89° 15' E for 429.3 feet to the westerly right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 61; thence in a northerly direction along the westerly right-of-way of said U.S. Highway No. 61 for 94 feet to the southeast corner of aforementioned Tract "A;" thence along the boundary of Tract "A," N 88° 53' W for 232.5 feet and N 21° 35' W for 688.2 feet to the point of beginning. Said within described tract containing 3.9 acres, being a portion of Fair Oaks, situated in Sections 43 and 44, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, Adams County, Mississippi.

(RED GUM)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



91°30'
31°30'

643000m.E.

2 320 000 FEET (L.A.)

25'

3485000m.N.

300 000 FEET
(L.A.)

FAIR OAKS
NATCHEZ VICINITY

- UTM REFERENCES:
- A 15/653680/3480575
 - B 15/653680/3480250
 - C 15/653400/3480250
 - D 15/653400/3480575

(DEER PARK)