



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

COUNTY Colbert

NAME: Present Preuit Oaks Historic

LOCATION: Street and Number Three miles south of Leighton
Town (Give directions if rural) Go 2 miles south of Leighton-County Line
Road-turn left-Cotton Town-go 1 mile-1st driveway to the left past New Home Baptist Church.
\*A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM\*

CATEGORY: Building (x) Structure ( ) Object ( ) Site ( ) District ( )

USE: Present private residence Historic private residence

OWNERSHIP: Public ( ) Private (x)

Owner's Name Mrs. Hardy Evans (All but home and one acre belongs to Mrs. Camilla Shull - same address)
Mailing Address Box 62
Leighton, AL 35646

INTEGRITY: Original Site (x) Moved ( ) When?
From where? (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent ( ) Good (x) Fair ( ) Ruins ( )

TREATS: No ( ) Yes ( ) By What?

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered ( ) Underway ( ) Completed ( ) Not planned (x)

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land ( ) Woodland ( ) Scattered buildings ( )
High building density ( ) Commercial ( ) Industrial ( )
Residential ( ) Rural (x)

Acreage

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow. Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Why is this landmark significant? (x) associated with events, persons, or movements  
Local (x) State ( ) National ( )  
(x) a good example of a type or style of structure  
( ) other

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true)

Pruit Oaks contains one of the finest surviving collections of buildings illustrative of a self-sustaining antebellum plantation in Alabama

Colonel Richard Pruit acquired the property in the 1850's and developed it into one of the most extensive and progressive plantations in the state.

Date of Construction or Period of major importance. 1847

Architect or Builder (Give name and biographies, if known)

Give a complete but concise history of the Landmark. Include information on important people and events associated with the landmark. (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

Pruit Oaks was built in 1847 by Dr. John S. Napier who married into the Aldridge Myatt family. Later in the 1850's, the property was sold to Colonel Richard Pruit. The house escaped the fate of more than one hundred other homes and barns whose flames lit Leighton skies, the same fateful night in 1863, when La Grange College was burned during the Civil War. Richard Pruit originally bought the property for his daughter Sallie, but when her husband died, he bought it back. The property has remained in the Pruit family and is now owned by two of the Colonel's granddaughters, Mrs. Pippin Shull and Mrs. Hardy Evans.

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

Mrs. Hardy Evans - granddaughter of Colonel Richard Pruit and present owner.

DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANDMARK MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

Complete as directed below for each category.

BUILDING:

Number of stories 1½ Foundation brick pillars Basement none

Wall Material: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)  
(clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batton, stucco over wood or brick, metal, logs)

Weatherboarding

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame (x) Load-bearing masonry ( ) Iron or Steel ( )

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination) Gable

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate) Originally wooden shingles, now composition.

Roof Trim: (Cornices, bargeboard, brackets, etc.) Boxed cornice

Porches: Front (type and description) One-story, gabled portico with two square posts and two pilasters.

Rear (type and description) \_\_\_\_\_

Side (type and description) \_\_\_\_\_

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) Center of facade, paneled, double leaf with sidelights and transom, fluted molding with corner blocks.

Other entrances (location, description)

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade Two, sash, 12/12, shuttered; two, sash, 6/6 in dormers.

Types and number per floor for sides and rear

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

Chair rail in the dining room; interior doors are paneled with fluted molding and corner blocks; six inch width heart pine flooring; original hardware throughout the older sections of the house; ceiling medallions in both the front and center hall ceilings; very fine woodwork throughout the house.

Other: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

Clustered around the house are the office, kitchen, log cook's house, plantation bell, smokehouse, carriage house, two log slave houses, family cemetery and the cotton gin. The cotton gin was manufactured by the Frick Company of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, and the machinery rests on what was once the base of a column for one of the buildings at nearby La Grange College.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED!

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

\*A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM\*

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Staff Date November 9, 1978  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP Leighton Quadrangle

U. T. M. Reference 1 6 4 5 3 2 9 5 3 8 3 6 7 8 5  
Zone Easting Northing

Thematic Category \_\_\_\_\_

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER 11/26/78

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

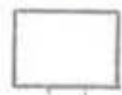
CEMETERY

COTTON GIN

COOK'S HOUSE (LOG)

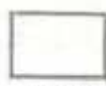


KITCHEN

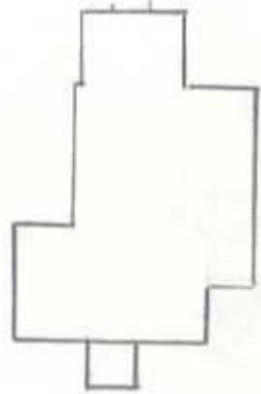


x BELL

SMOKE HOUSE



CARRIAGE HOUSE



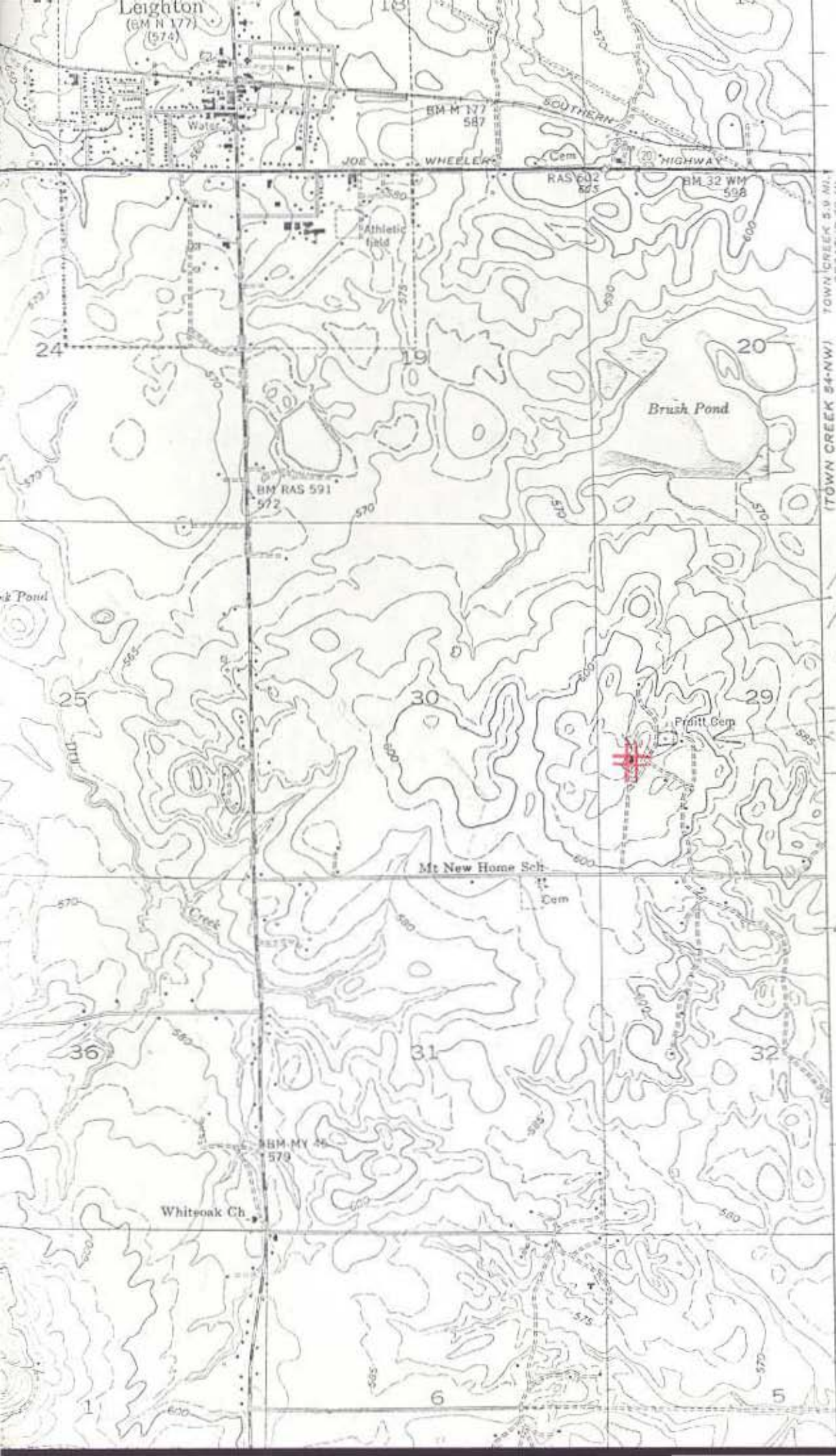
SLAVE HOUSE (LOG)



OFFICE



NOT TO SCALE



TOWN CREEK S. 3 M.  
 DECATUR 32 M.  
 (TOWN CREEK S4-NW)

*Antebellum  
 Pritt Home*

*GIN*

*Latitude = 35° 40' 30" N*

*Longitude = 87° 30' 30" W*

T. 4 S.  
 T. 5 S.















