

Old Male Gin and Well Sweep
(L. A. Clatt Home, 4 Mi. S.)
Cottonton, Alabama

HABS No. ALA-552

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Auburn, Alabama

COTTON

OLD MULE GIN AND WELL SWEEP
(L.A. CLIATT PLANTATION)
Four miles south of Cottonton,
Cottonton, Russell County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: L. A. Cliatt.

Previous Owners: " "

Date of Erection: Approximately 1840.

Builder: L. A. Cliatt.

Present Condition: Fair.

Materials of Construction: Heart of pine and oak.

Other Existing Records:

Additional Data: The total diameter of horizontal wheel 109 inches; drive wheel not in place any longer, however it is in good condition. The gin shelter is built of heart of pine; shelter open on three sides, fourth side originally had a cotton warehouse attached.

Attached to this cotton warehouse was a cotton press, of which however only the metal screw was left in place, buried in the ground. The actual cotton gin is still in place in the loft, but no doubt is quite a recent replacement of an older gin which was used. Capacity of this method of ginning in cotton was five bales every ten hours or as much as 7 bales. Mules were changed more often.

Drive arm allowed two sets of mules to be used, see drawings for further information.

Well-sweep, this old well-sweep on the same L. A. Cliatt Plantation, located near the plantation house, is still in use today, it is one of the few left in the whole state of Alabama. The post eight inches square is of heart of pine, and the pole is of wild cherry, see drawings and photographs for further information.

Source of Material:

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