

## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**

White Bluff

**County, State**

Marengo, AL

**Reference Number**

70000106

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Marengo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	8-25-70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
White Bluff

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
White Bluff (Ecor Blanc)

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Arch Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Demopolis

STATE: Alabama      CODE: 01      COUNTY: Marengo      CODE: 091

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>City Street</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments: Civic Center of Demopolis located on a portion of property

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Demopolis

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Demopolis      STATE: Alabama      CODE: 01

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Marengo County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
101 East Coats Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Linden      STATE: Alabama      CODE: 01

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Alabama

COUNTY: Marengo

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

White Bluff (Ecor Blanc) abounds in fossils, exergyra and gryphaea, and is listed in the Geological Survey of Alabama as being composed of Selma chalk or rotten limestone.

The original height of the White Bluff was approximately 70 to 80 feet at the highest point. In 1955 the completion of the U. S. Lock and Dam raised the water level 40 feet. Present height of the bluff varies from twenty to forty feet depending on the contour of the land at the top. White Bluff is the color of chalk when dry and a pale grey when wet.

White Bluff is located on the west bank of the Tombigbee River in Marengo County between river miles 215 and 216, as shown on the U. S. Corps of Engineers navigation chart--Black Warrior, Tombigbee River.

There are two landings from the river. The upper city landing is now used as a park and recreation area for the launching of boats. The lower city landing (commonly and locally called Webb's landing) is also used occasionally to dock boats and as a launching site.

At the top of the bluff, Arch Street of the City of Demopolis extends from the upper City landing to the City's Riverside cemetery. This property was dedicated to the public as Arch Street on June 18, 1819, when the plan was adopted and promulgated "as the true plan of the town of Demopolis" by the town proprietors.

At this time all of the street is not used by the public. The Mayor and City Council recently authorized the use of a portion of Arch Street as a promenade, "a walk for pleasure," with suitable landscaping and walkways.

Permission to make this application for nomination as a historic site granted by a unanimous decision of the Mayor and City Council at their regular meeting on February 5, 1970.

The Demopolis Civic Center is built on Arch Street, overlooking the Tombigbee River, between Monroe and Fulton Streets.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1817-1819

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**HISTORIC:** Landing site from the Tombigbee River of a band of Napoleonic exiles in 1817. These exiles established the "Vine and Olive Colony." The chain of events that led to the establishment of this unique colony began with the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo in 1815. A number of Napoleon's military officers and a certain members of his court were banished from France. Gathering in Philadelphia they petitioned Congress for a land grant on which they could cultivate crops familiar to them--grapes and olives. Congress by an act approved on March 3, 1817, granted them four contiguous townships of land near the confluence of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers in Alabama territory. During the summer of that same year the colonists traveled to their new home, founding "Demopolis" on the White Bluff.

Leader of the group of exiles was General Count Charles Lefebvre Desnouettes, who served as an aide-de-camp to Napoleon at the battle of Marengo, Italy, in 1800, and rode in the carriage with him over the snow in the disastrous retreat from Moscow. After Napoleon's first great defeat and before leaving for exile on the island of Elba, the Emperor said farewell to his Old Guard at the Palace of Fontainebleau, where he embraced Desnouettes as a token of his affection for the whole group. On his return from Elba Desnouettes was at his side again. For this Napoleon named him a "count of the empire" and a lieutenant general. Desnouettes participated in the conclusive battle at Waterloo. Napoleon in his will left General Desnouettes 150,000 francs. Other generals and members of the Vine and Olive colony named as heirs in Napoleon's will were General Charles L'Allemand, Count Real, General Clausel, and General Rigaud.

In late 1818 after the surveyor's reports were complete it was found that the White Bluff and Demopolis were just barely outside the boundary of the newly-surveyed grant. Most of the colonists moved to the south bank of the Warrior River; a distance of about a mile and a half, and named their new village "Aigleville." This site is now within the town's corporate limits.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

American State Papers, III (Public Lands). Washington: 1834.  
 Bourrienne, L.A.F. Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte, 4 Volumes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1905. (Appendix, Vol. IV, "The Will of Napoleon".)  
 Carter, C.E., ed. Territorial Papers of the United States. IV (Territory of Mississippi, 1809-1817) and XVIII (Territory of Alabama, 1817-1819). Washington: Government Printing Office, 1938 and 1952.  
 Letter from Thomas Jefferson to William Lee. Monticello, January 16, 1817. From the Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington.  
 Lyon, Anne Bozeman. "The Bonapartists in Alabama." Southern Home Journal. Memphis: March, 1900.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	32 ° 31 ' 30 "	87 ° 50 ' 56 "				
NE	32 ° 31 ' 30 "	87 ° 50 ' 23 "				
SE	32 ° 30 ' 55 "	87 ° 50 ' 23 "				
SW	32 ° 30 ' 55 "	87 ° 50 ' 56 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: six (6)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
All in Alabama	01	Marengo	091
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director, Alabama Historical Commission & W. H. Britton, President, Marengo County Historical Society

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: June 2, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

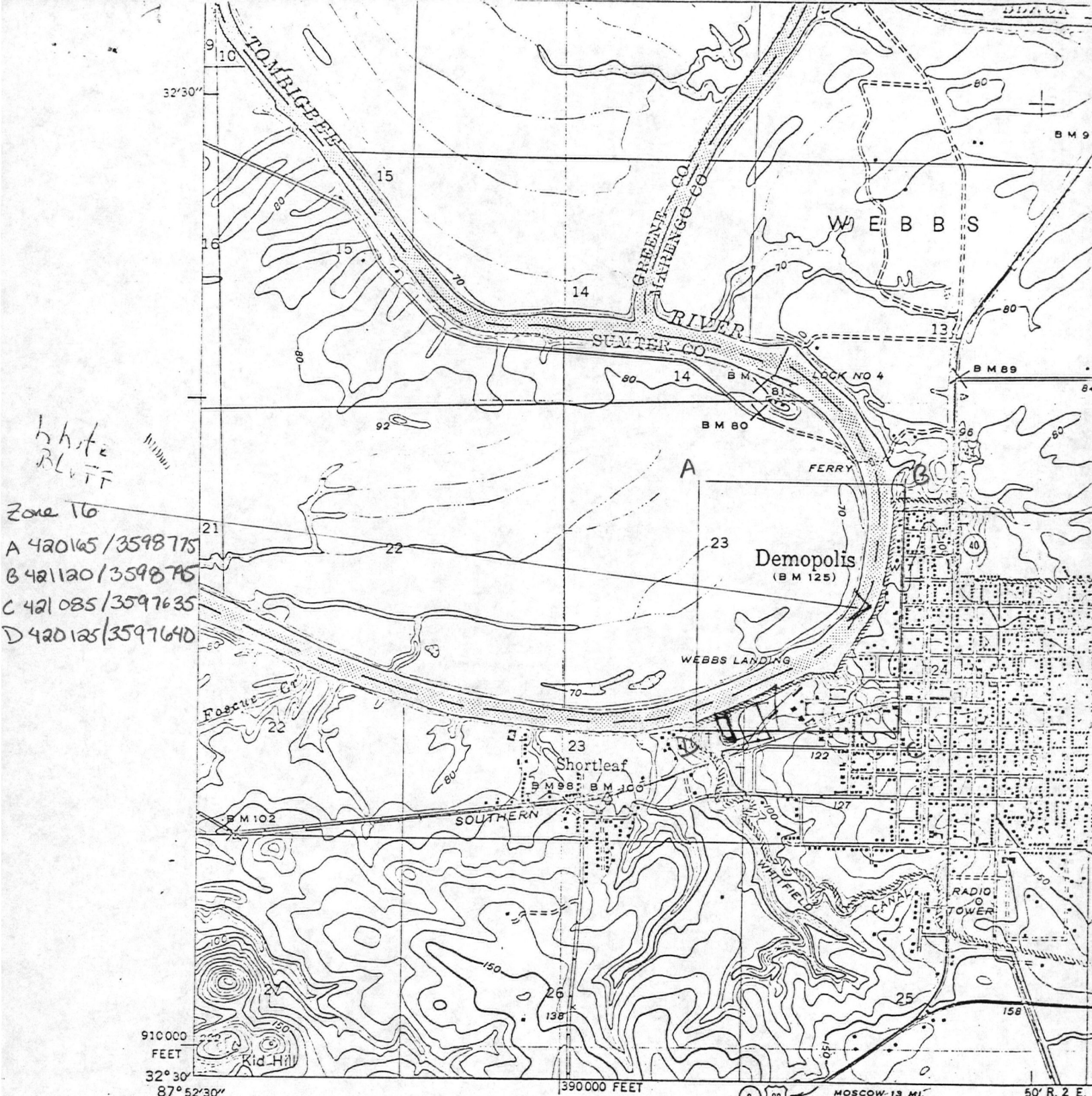
STATE Alabama	
COUNTY Marengo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

WHITE BLUFF

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Martin, Thomas W. French Military Adventures in Alabama, 1818-1828.  
Birmingham: Birmingham Publishing Company, 1937.
- Owen, Marie Bankhead, LL.D. The Story of Alabama, Vol. III, Chapter 2,  
"The French Grant in Alabama, A History of the Founding of Demopolis."  
New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1949.
- Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography,  
4 Volumes. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.
- Pickett, A. J. History of Alabama, 1851. Republished by Birmingham Book  
and Magazine Company. Birmingham: 1962.
- Reeves, Jesse S. The Napoleonic Exiles in America. Baltimore: The  
John Hopkins Press, 1905.
- Smith, E. A. Underground Water Resources. Prepared in cooperation with  
The Geological Survey of Alabama. Montgomery: Brown Printing Company, 1907.
- Smith, Winston. Days of Exile. Tuscaloosa: W. B. Drake & Son, 1967.
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- Vie Politique et Militaire De Napoleon. Recontee Par Lui-Meme, Au Tribunal  
De Cesar, D'Alexandre et De Frederic, Tome Premier, Tome Quatrieme.  
Paris: 1827. Charles Anselin, Successeur De Magimel, Imprimerie De  
Firmin Didot.



Mapped by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,  
 and the Geological Survey  
 1936-1937 and 1946

ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1947

Dependable hard surface heavy duty road	Dry weather roads	U. S. Route 15
Secondary hard surface all weather road	Loose surface graded	
	Unsurfaced, graded	
	Dirt road	Slate Route 26
More than two lanes indicated along road with tick at point of change		2 LANE, 4 LANE

TRUE NORTH  
 5°  
 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1946

