

MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORICAL SITES GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Please read entire application before completing.
Inaccurate or incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. Project Title: Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center Gin Restoration
2. Project Location: 33 Thomas Street

Glendora	Address or location description if in rural area
City (if applicable)	Tallahatchie
	County

Project Description (in one sentence):

Restoration and preservation of a 1938 cotton gin and control shed (including: Roofing, exterior walls, windows, drive and parking, and water drainage) to create an educational center and museum.

Significance to Civil Rights Movement:

The 1938 gin was once one of the largest employers in the Glendora community, and is also believed to be the location the murderers of Emmett Till obtained the fan to tie around the neck of Emmett Till.

Project Budget:

Total State Grant Funds Requested:

\$ \$201,600.00

Matching funds provided by applicant:

\$ \$50,400.00

Total Project Cost:

\$ \$252,000.00

Project Applicant: Town of Glendora

Mr. Johnny B. Thomas

(Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.)

Contact Name

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Title

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Project Narrative

The cotton gin was constructed in 1938, and once boasted as one of the largest employers of the Glendora Community. While the gin operated until the early 1980's, it was re-claimed as a sweet potato plant for approximately three years, from 2000-2003. In 2005, the facility became the Thomas Technology Center and Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center (ETHIC), with a grant from the USDA Broadband Initiative. This historic facility once associated with "King Cotton" is also believed to be the place where the murderers of Emmett Till obtained a fan to tie around the neck of Emmett Till and dropped the body into Black Bayou at Glendora in 1955. The ETHIC facility is now being researched for placement on the National Register of Historic Places in two categories: as part of King Cotton and as a Civil Rights and Human Wrongs involving the murder of Emmett Till. The ETHIC's mission is to provide valuable historic and educational material to memorialize the historical significance of the Town of Glendora, Tallahatchie County and the State of Mississippi as it relates to the infamous Emmett Till abduction and brutal murder and to ensure civil, human, cultural, and musical heritage not be forgotten and to promote cultural heritage tourism within the State of Mississippi.

This gin is a classic example of the "Machine Era" in farming and can provide historical information from the 1950's – early 1970's. With renovations, it can provide "what was" with reference to "what can be." Proposed renovations include: cleaning and refinishing the sign; re-use and salvage materials for corrugated sheet metal panels and roofing; exterior surface water drainage control; insulation; renovations to the control shed; window and window casement repair or replacement; and driveway, parking, and pavement for building access. Also included in gin and museum space are: roof removal and replacement, interior walls, lighting, HVAC, and museum displays.