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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

### 1. Name of Property

historic name: **Porterville General Store**  
other names/site number: **Dr. W.F. Rogers Store; Jack McElvaine Store; Jack Webb Store**

### 2. Location

street & number: **old Highway 45** not for publication \_\_\_  
city or town: **Porterville** vicinity \_\_\_  
state: **Mississippi** code **MS** county **Kemper** code **069** zip code **39352**

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  X  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide  X  locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul FEB. 10, 2006  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 X  entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for Daniel J. Vician Signature of the Keeper  
3/17/06 Date of Action

Porterville General Store  
Name of Property

Kemper County, Mississippi  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Number of Resources within Property:**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:** Building

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

**Current Functions:** WORK IN PROGRESS  
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification(s):** No Style

**Materials:**

foundation: BRICK  
roof: ASPHALT/METAL: tin  
walls: WOOD: weatherboard  
other

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1913

**Significant Dates**

1913

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)**

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

**Architect/Builder**

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Porterville General Store  
Name of Property

Kemper County, Mississippi  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	362020	3617460	C		
B				D		

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title:	Joyce Lampé	date:	August 1, 2005
organization:		telephone:	(601) 677-3903
street & number:	P.O. Box 115	zip code:	39354
city or town:	Preston	state:	MS

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name:	Joyce Lampé	telephone:	(601) 677-3903
street & number:	P.O. Box 115	zip code:	39354
city or town:	Preston	state:	MS

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Porterville General Store  
Porterville, Kemper County

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**Narrative Description**

This store building is a wood frame structure built in 1913. Its foundation is brick. A single gable roof of corrugated tin extends the full length of the one-story general store section of the building. A two-story section is located at the rear of the general store, housing an apartment above an office/bank/storage/post office area. A covered shed-roof porch extends to the street in front facing west to the railroad tracks. This full-width porch includes wooden steps leading down to the two gas pumps which are also covered by the shed roof. Three wooden loafers benches are attached to the 6" wood posts on the porch. Double-leaf 10-light French-style doors at the center of the façade are flanked by paired original windows (4'9" x 5'11"), each with 18 panes. Iron burglar bars cover both front windows. On the N elevation are five 6-light transom/breeze windows and six of these types are on the S elevation. Near the rear of the N elevation of the general store section are two sets of wooden doors (6'6" x 4'2") with two glass panels each. Tin-roofed wooden awnings shelter these doors. A brick chimney over a coal-burning fireplace is on the N elevation flanked by two fixed windows with iron bars, and a smaller brick chimney, originally over a wood-burning stove, is located at the gable ridge.

A double-leaf 5-panel wood door opens into the interior from the front porch. The general store features unpainted pine flooring extending 48' to a concrete floor at the rear (see floorplan, attached). The concrete floor (35'9") extends, in turn, to the rear wall of the store. Three wooden posts are in a line down the center of the store. Walls and ceiling are pine flushboard painted white. Mahogany-stained wooden shelves line the long northern and southern walls. There are fifteen shelf units of 4'9" length and three boards per unit on the south wall (a total of 71'3"), and fourteen shelf units on the north wall (a total of 66'6"). Additionally, nine glass display cases form counter areas in front of the shelves and four freestanding wood counters are of later vintage. The rear section with concrete floor has a coal-burning fireplace with a wood mantel and a primitive wooden butcher table. The floor here is grooved for drainage as this section served as a butcher shop.

The two-story section at the rear of the building housed a small bank, post office, and doctor's office on the first floor, and a residence upstairs. A separate entrance, on the S elevation, with a 4-light, 2-panel wood door opens into a 17' x 26'6" area used for a bank, doctor's office, and storage. Original wood fixtures of the office remain. Two sash windows to serve customers are still functional, and the wood-plank floor is intact. The storage area to the north features a concrete floor. The door to the second-floor apartment is east of the office entrance, and further to the east, at the very rear of the building is a 40'5" x 31' one-story structure attached to the rest of the building but with a tin shed roof. It has two boarded windows and one boarded door. Entry to this section is through a double-leaf plank door, each leaf with six barn hinges. This section was the site of the early Porterville Post Office. A decrepit voting booth indicates it was likely also a voting precinct.

The exterior and interior of this extraordinarily intact early 1900s vernacular general store are basically unaltered. Electric lights and a couple of air conditioners in the transoms are the only "modern" features inside. Outside, two gas pumps under the shed-roof drive-through and electric lights are later additions.

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Porterville General Store  
Porterville, Kemper County

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**Statement of Significance**

The Porterville General Store is an outstanding example of the old country/village store. It was built in 1913 by Dr. W. F. Rogers to replace a previous building destroyed by fire in 1912. The building's location and vernacular design provide insight into rural village life in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Mississippi.

Porterville in 1913 was a thriving village of approximately 200 inhabitants. Its location on the M&O Railroad attracted commerce of all kinds. Pioneer settlers of Kemper County had farms nearby providing a trade area of several hundred families.

The actual setting of the store is significant historically. The building occupies most of the lot. A large parking area was unnecessary for customers who walked, came on horseback or in buggies or farm wagons.

Inside, the layout of merchandise is representative of a small mercantile enterprise. Goods were kept inside enclosed glass showcases or on wall shelves behind counters formed by the glass cases. The vast space of shelves and open areas for barrels, bags, boxes of home and farm needs connotes an ample customer base. Even caskets were displayed in the early 1900s.

With the arrival of the motorcar the current porte-cochere extension to the front porch was added to accommodate two gas pumps. Inside the store on the west wall are dates of oil changes and related car transactions jotted down in pencil.

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Porterville General Store  
Porterville, Kemper County

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**Bibliography**

Gordy, Glenn Thomas. *Come Walk With Me*. Livingston, AL: Sumpter Graphics, 1980.

Hudnall, Ora Boyd (age 97), born in Porterville. Interviewed by Joyce Lampé, May 31, 2005.

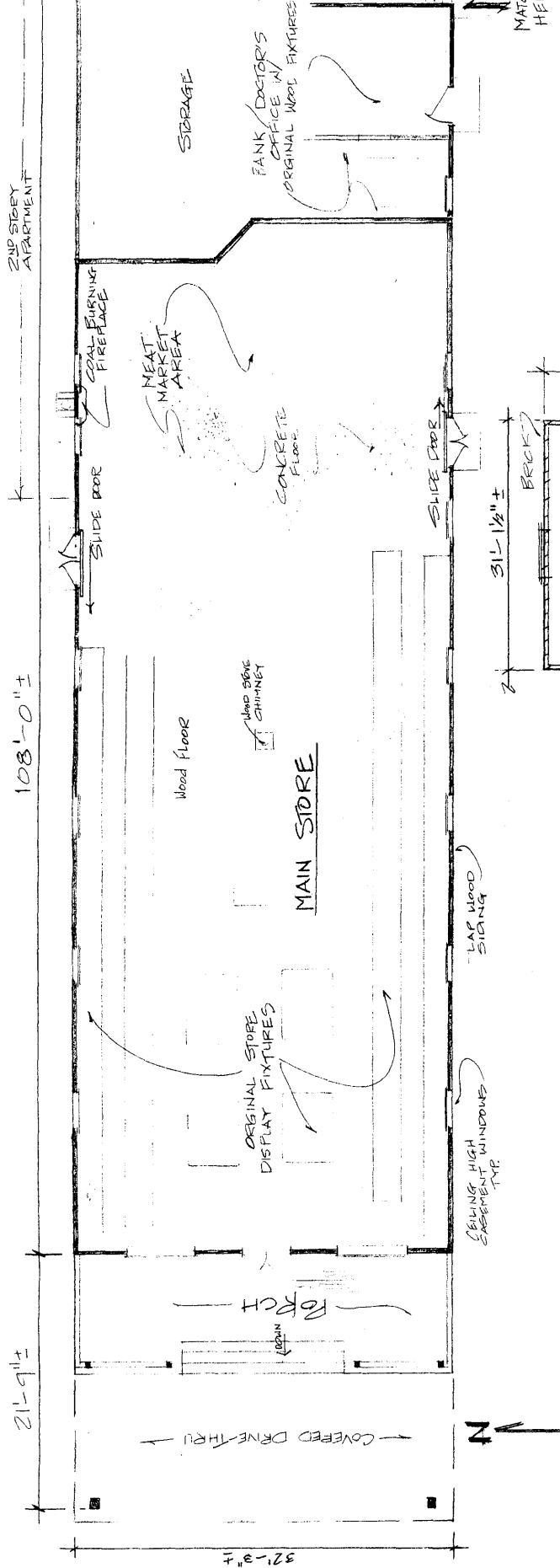
Mosley, Christine McLaurin Webb (age 98), born in Porterville area. Interviewed by Joyce Lampé, May 27, 2005.

Parmer, Louis. *Kemper County—the Pioneer Days*. Livingston, AL: Sumpter Graphics, 1983.

Parmer, Louis. *Southeast Kemper: Its People and Communities*. Livingston, AL: Sumpter Graphics, 1982.







FORTERVILLE  
GENERAL STORE

2ND STORBY  
APARTMENT

108'-0"±

21'-0"±

32'-0"±

31'-1/2"±

40'-5"±

MAT  
HEI

MATH  
LREE

LAP WOOD  
SIDING

CEILING HIGH  
CASPENT WINDOWS  
TYP.

STORAGE

FANK DOCTOR'S  
OFFICE W/  
ORIGINAL WOOD  
FIXTURES

MEAT  
MARKET  
AREA

CONCRETE  
FLOOR

Wood Floor

WOOD BRICK  
CHIMNEY

MAIN STORE

ORIGINAL STORE  
DISPLAY FIXTURES

ROCKI

COVERED DRIVE-THRU

SLIDE DOOR

BRICKS

OLD POST OFFICE

TO  
AREA

