

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 11 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and or common Lover's Lane Historic District

2. Location

street & number Lover's Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Ocean Springs

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Jackson

code 59

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residences
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk, Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Canty Street

city, town Pascagoula

state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Hist. Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi 39205

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved

date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lover's Lane Historic District occupies the western shore of a small peninsula which separates the Back Bay of Biloxi from the mouth of the Old Fort Bayou. This stream undulates along the northern limits of the historically significant sections of Ocean Springs. As the name, "Old Fort Bayou," suggests, the peninsula was the site of Fort Maurepas, the original French settlement in the colony of Louisiana founded by General Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville on April 8, 1699. The terrain of the peninsula consists of a slightly rolling low bluff which descends abruptly to a narrow strip of shoreline marshes on the west. Lover's Lane, a narrow asphalt roadway flanked by thick foliage, bisects the peninsula or "point" as it is called by natives of the town. The lane establishes the eastern boundary of the historic district.

Of the nominated buildings, all are residential. Three are pivotal; six are contributing and three are non-contributing. The buildings maintain a nearly consistent recession from the shore. They stand upon large, heavily landscaped lots through which meander narrow crushed-oyster shell drives and paths. The dense, informal landscaping along Lover's Lane gives way to more precisely organized designs near the dwellings. Smooth lawns punctuated by flower plots and shaded by magnolias and live oaks surround the houses and stretch westward to the edge of the bluff.

- P - Pivotal buildings qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by reasons of individual architectural and/or historical significance.
- C - Contributing buildings are essential to the district's sense of place and sustain the architectural and historical significance of the district.
- M - Marginal buildings do not presently contribute to the architectural significance of the district, but by their scale, material, or setting do not overly compromise the integrity of the district. Marginal buildings include those historical buildings which have been remodeled to such a degree that their architectural character has been seriously compromised. Restoration of original features could cause these buildings to become contributing. Marginal buildings also include deteriorated buildings that contribute to the district but whose condition is so deteriorated that their future is uncertain.
- NC - Non-contributing buildings do not contribute to the historical character of the district, but, because they are compatible to the contributing historic buildings in scale, mass, materials, and setting, they do not detract from the visual cohesiveness of the district. Non-contributing buildings include those residences that were constructed after the period of significance and are compatible in scale, mass, material, and setting--if not in detail.
- I - Intrusive buildings by their scale, materials, condition, or setting severely disrupt the cohesion of the historic environment.

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Continuation sheet Lover's Lane Hist. Dist. Item number 7 Page 1

7 - DESCRIPTION

INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS

1. 305. Old Lindsey Place. One story, wood frame house on brick piers, with side gable roofs of varying sizes. Screen-enclosed, full-width, hip-roofed gallery on west (water-front) facade. Built by a son-in-law of the owner of the adjoining opulent Benjamin estate (not extant). Colonial Revival. Ca. 1910. (C)
2. 307. Taquino House. Demolished 1985. (NC)
3. 309. "Bay Home," Poitevent House. One story, wood frame house on brick piers, hip roof. Center passage-double pile plan. Similar symmetrical five bay facades on east and west fronts. Three center bays protected by three bay, hip-roofed portico with square Tuscan columns. Wide eaves supported by a deep cove which, according to family tradition, was designed to deflect hurricane winds. Breeze-way between main house and kitchen enclosed 1937. Greek Revival. Ca. 1876. (P)
4. Conamore.
  - A. Two story, wood frame main house with a cross gable roof. Three bay, screen-enclosed porch with a bell cast hip roof and sawn brackets. Circular gazebo with mansard roof attached to south corner of the house (now enclosed.) Queen Anne. Ca. 1880. (C)
  - B. Guest Cottage is wood frame with side gable roof. Full-width two bay, projecting, hip-roofed porch with brackets. Small wing. Ca. 1890. (C)
5. 318. Guice Estate.
  - A. Two story, stuccoed masonry house with a hip roof. Octagonal vestibule with round-headed opening with a cast iron door. Two story octagonal tower on southern corner. Spanish Colonial Revival. Ca. 1926. (P)
  - B.-D. Three nineteenth-century frame gable-roofed cottages on the property. (C)
6. 1015½. Mead House. One story, wood frame house with a side gable roof. Front gable-roofed bay side ell. Ca. 1958. (NC)
7. 1015. "Rebel Oak." Two story, brick veneered wood frame house with a side gable roof. Shed-roofed five bay portico supported by giant columns. Fan-and-side-lighted center entrance. "Southern Colonial." Ca. 1965. (NC)
8. 1025. Palfrey Estate. One-and-one-half story, wood frame house with a hip roof with a large central gabled dormer on the east and west elevations. Eighth-bay screen-enclosed galleries on the east and west elevations; that on the west is undercut; the eastern projects with a shed roof. Ca. 1875. (P)

Total contributing elements:  
9 buildings

Total noncontributing elements:  
2 buildings, and the site of a demolished building.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1875 - ca. 1926    **Builder/Architect** N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lover's Lane Historic District is architecturally significant as a cohesive neighborhood of vacation estates which reflect the continued development and popularity of Ocean Springs as a resort community on a grander scale than is encountered elsewhere in the city.

The series of bay-front knolls on which the Lover's Lane Historic District is situated was the site of Fort Maurepas, the first French settlement along the Gulf Coast established by d'Iberville in 1699. The private owners of the actual site of the fort have denied permission for an archaeological excavation. An unofficial dig led by Sam McGahey, chief archaeologist at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, on the grounds of Conamore uncovered evidence of seventeenth-century European settlement. These discoveries have been reinforced by the presence of a silt-entombed seventeenth-century ship adjacent to the Taquino property. While the seventeenth-century archaeological importance of the area must not be overlooked, the Lover's Lane Historic District is most obviously significant for its collection of summer estates dating from the 1870s through the 1920s. The largest and most lavish of these, the Benjamin estate, which included a miniature railroad among its amenities, is no longer extant. The surviving properties, if less opulent, still reflect a more expansive mode of living than pursued in other sections of Ocean Springs.

The most easily recognized architectural styles represented in the district include the Greek Revival (Bay Home), the Queen Anne (Conamore and its guest house), and the Spanish Colonial Revival (Guice house). These all exhibit adaptations of their styles to meet the climatic challenges of the Gulf Coast. These include the eaves cove of Bay Home, the wide eaves and porches of Conamore and the thick walls, arcades, and balconies of the Guice house. The less easily labeled Palfrey house and Old Lindsey Home incorporate full-width porches in their plans.

The integrity of the contributing properties is strengthened by the survival of the oyster-shell paths and generous scale of their landscape designs.

The dense foliage of the district shields the two non-contributing properties from view as does the heavy vegetation screen the recently constructed homes on the east side of Lover's Lane. These incompatible buildings do not, therefore, detract from the visual integrity of the district as a whole.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Dabney, Thomas E. Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Pascagoula: Lewis Printing Services, 1974.  
(Reprint of Ocean Springs, the Land Where Dreams Come True, The News, ca. 1915)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property appr. 20 acres

Quadrangle name Ocean Springs

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	2	2	9	8	0	3	3	6	6	5	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	6	3	2	3	2	5	0	3	3	6	5	8	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	6	3	2	3	0	0	0	3	3	6	5	7	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	6	3	2	2	7	9	0	3	3	6	6	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The district is composed of all of the properties on the southwest side of Lover's Lane, which face the Back Bay of Biloxi and are located between, and include, parcels 60224140-000 & 60224200-000. The expansive manner of living represented by these estates requires the inclusion of their full acreage in the nominated area.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Berggren, Architectural Historian

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

date May 15, 1986

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi 39205

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Kenneth H. P. Pool*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 4, 1987

### For NPS use only

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

*Amy Schaefer*

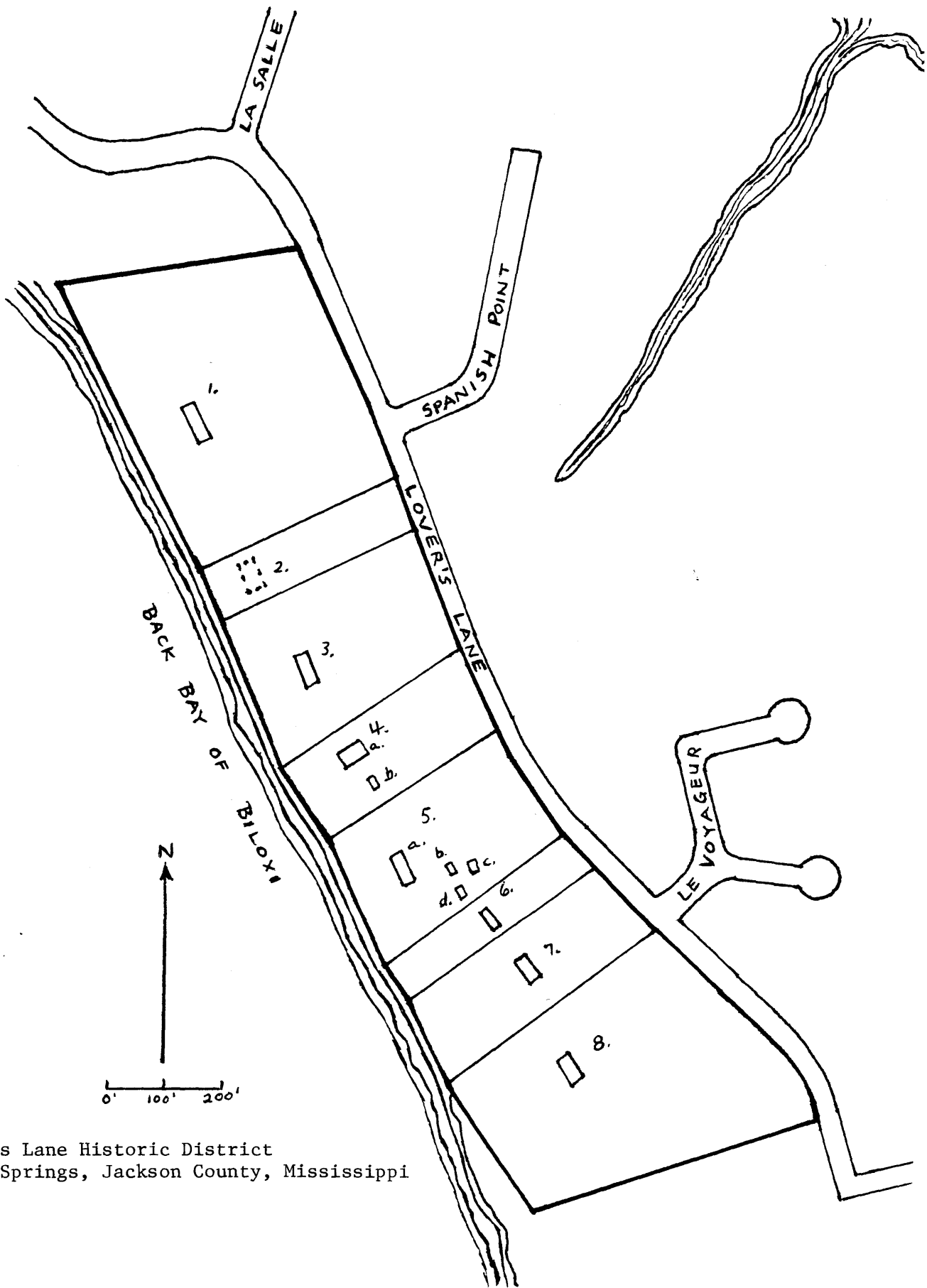
date 6/9/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Lover's Lane Historic District  
 Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi