

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 21 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Gatchell House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1411 College Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Lowndes

CODE

127-87

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Alice Gatchell

STREET & NUMBER

1411 College Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi 39701

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Second Avenue North

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi 39701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1974

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gatchell House is situated on an elevated, mid-block lot on the north side of College Street, directly across from the oldest portion of the Mississippi University for Women campus in Columbus, Mississippi. Dominating the facade, with its three-bay gallery supported by massive brick piers, is a giant-order, pedimented portico with square, paneled columns. The tympanum is set with a lunette window featuring delicate, radiating tracery. A plain balustrade encloses the gallery and continues down the double flight of steps that rises on either side of the brick piers framing the central entrance to the ground level. On the upper levels of the central bay are identical, simply detailed frontispieces, each with side lights and transom surrounding a six-panel door. A balcony, carried on carved consoles and guarded by a handsome, turned balustrade, is set between the two. Each level of the facade features a different style of fenestration. Two-light by five-light casement windows are used on the ground level. Double-leaf glazed doors set beneath a transom replace the original windows on the principal story. Installed in 1921, the doors utilize the same type rolled backband as that used on the frontispieces and the six-over-six sash windows of the second story. The boxed cornice enclosing the overhanging eaves returns on both the eastern and western gable ends. Flanking the chimney on all three levels on the western side of the house are windows, casement on the ground level and double-hung above. Windows are omitted from the principal story on the eastern elevation. The rear, or northern, elevation features a variety of additions, including an ell at the northwestern corner of the house. The rear gallery has been enclosed.

Maintaining more integrity than the exterior, the interior of the original six-room portion of the house follows the central-hall plan and features chaste Greek Revival woodwork throughout. With the exception of the western room on the ground level, which has a later nineteenth-century millwork mantel, each room retains its original wooden, post-and-lintel Grecian mantel and six-panel doors with asymmetrical, flat, applied molding and corresponding architraves with plain backbands. A plain, single-flight staircase located in the central hall connects the ground floor with the principal story. A handsome dog-leg staircase servicing the upper floors has simple balusters, set two to a step, and a continuous handrail that gracefully swirls at the newel.

The outstanding feature of the interior is the superb plasterwork in the main parlor or eastern room on the principal level. The sophisticated composition is notable for its combination of elements from both the Grecian and Gothic styles. Below the richly molded cornice runs a band of anthemion, a popular motif of the Greek Revival period. Decorating the perimeter of the ceiling is a wide border designed with quartrefoils inset within circular and semicircular rings. This Gothic plasterwork forms a field for the extremely handsome centerpiece composed of a large, stylized rosette surrounded by alternating anthemion and small rosettes.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In a town noted for its fanciful, frame antebellum residences, the Gatchell House is architecturally significant for its use of brick in a three-story, single-pile form that utilizes the above-grade basement as a principal level. In addition, the sophisticated example of Gothic Revival plasterwork featured in the main parlor is apparently unique for a residence in Mississippi. The house is also significant as the residence, during the early twentieth century, of two outstanding educators associated with the neighboring Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women).

An 1849 map of Columbus shows the house lot, square 37 south of Main Street, as the site of James M. Stevens's "brikyard." The house was built between Stevens's 1851 sale of the lot (Deed Book 25:661) and 1859, when the property was purchased by Mrs. Early Hendricks for \$3,000 (Deed Book 31:271), but an incomplete chain of title makes it impossible to pinpoint the person for whom the construction was carried out. Architectural features frequently found on other antebellum Columbus houses, such as the plain, tripartite frontispieces, the cantilevered balcony with turned balusters and consoles, and the single-bay, pedimented portico with giant-order, square columns, support the pre-1859 construction date and make the house a good representative example of the local Grecian tradition. The form of the house, however--its brick construction combined with its single-pile plan composed of two stories over an above-grade, high basement--gives it special distinction in the Columbus area. Rosewood Manor (ca. 1850) is the only other local example of this form.

Not as dominant a tradition as the Greek Revival, the Gothic Revival style, occasionally used in conjunction with the ubiquitous Grecian mode, was usually employed for woodwork. The quatrefoil-motif band around the periphery of the ceiling in the main parlor of the Gatchell House, however, marks the only documented instance of Gothic-styled ceiling plasterwork in a domestic building in Mississippi.

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the property had numerous owners, including some of local prominence. From 1917 until 1923, it was the home of Nellie Sutton Keirn (1885-1975), a professor at, and later president and vice-president of, Mississippi State College for Women, and Anne L. Fant, professor of education and psychology at the college from 1896 until her death in 1930. Mrs. Alice James Gatchell, the present owner, served as a professor of library science at the college from 1941 and was also chairman of the department from 1949 until she retired in 1972.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lowndes County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 22, 25, 31.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Subject File. Nellie Sutton Keirn;
Anne L. Fant.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	3,6,8,4,0,0	3,7,0,6,9,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A lot 160' x 72' on the northern side of College Street being part of Lots 8 and 9 in Square 39, south of Main Street, in and according to the plan of the city of Columbus, Mississippi.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary McCahon Shoemaker, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

January 16, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

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

Elburn R. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

W. W. ...
Walter ...

DATE

3-21-78

DATE

3-14-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 1 PAGE 1

AMENDMENT
GATCHELL HOUSE
COLUMBUS
LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1 - NAME

Common
Kenneth Gatchell Home