

P140355404

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 17 1977  
DATE ENTERED DEC 2 1977

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 \*\*  
Biedenharn Candy Company

AND/OR COMMON  
Biedenharn Candy Company Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
1107-1109 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN  
Vicksburg

STATE  
Mississippi

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

CODE

28

COUNTY

Warren

CODE

149

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. Haseeb Abraham

STREET & NUMBER  
2819 Drummond

CITY, TOWN  
Vicksburg

STATE  
Mississippi

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Cherry Street

CITY, TOWN  
Vicksburg

STATE  
Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Vicksburg Historic Sites Survey

DATE  
Summer, 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Miss. Department of Archives and History; Vicksburg City Planning Office

CITY, TOWN  
Jackson; Vicksburg

STATE  
Mississippi

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Biedenharn Candy Company Building is a two-story, six-bay commercial building of brick construction, situated facing west at 1107-1109 Washington Street, between Grove and China streets, in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The 35-foot facade of the building appears substantially as it did when it was constructed in 1890, reflecting with two separate street entrance/display window compositions the fact that the interior of the first floor was originally divided into two mercantile spaces by means of a central wall of frame construction. At the second-floor level, the six bays of the facade are marked by two-over-two sash windows set on wooden sills in segmental-arched openings. Above the windows the painted block letters advertising "Biedenharn Candy Co." are still faintly discernible below a well-executed late Victorian commercial interpretation of a classical entablature with paneled frieze and dentiled cornice.

The interior of the Biedenharn Candy Company Building retained much of its original integrity until 1950, when the present owner, Mr. Haseeb Abraham, removed the central partition from the first floor and joined the first floor space to that of the adjacent building to the north by opening up a portion of the party wall. At the same time, Mr. Abraham almost doubled the original 66-foot depth of the building by enclosing the space at the rear that had originally been occupied by a partially walled-in dirt yard with a detached bake house along the north side (Sanborn Map Collection, Mississippi. Vicksburg, p. 7, 1925). The original rear windows on both floors were preserved and reinstalled in the extended structure. The balusters, handrail, and newels of the interior stair that rises along the present back wall were probably moved from the front of the building when the original stair, reached through an exterior door fronting on Washington Street at the northwest corner of the building, was removed during remodeling. An adjacent building south of the Biedenharn Building had evidently been demolished by the time of the 1950 remodeling, leaving a windowless brick south wall, accented with corbeled string courses. This original south wall contrasts markedly with the south elevation of the 1950 addition, which is broken by regularly spaced windows at both floor levels.

The single interior space on the second floor of the building, although enlarged with the 1950 extension, has never been partitioned and appears essentially unaltered except for an obvious patch in the flooring at the west end where the staircase originally descended to the street. Few original details remain on the first floor, but photographs from an advertisement published in 1895 provide good documentation of the nineteenth century appearance of the "strictly first class retail Confectionary and Restaurant," which occupied the right (south) half of the building (Picturesque Vicksburg, p. 141). Less documentation is available for the Biedenharn Shoe Shop, which was housed in the left (north) half of the structure, but Vicksburg residents who remember both establishments have described the shoe shop interior as more modest than that of the Confectionary and Restaurant. Apparently, there was no direct

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7 - DESCRIPTION

interior access between the two first floor spaces until the center wall was removed.

Once part of an unbroken block of two- and three-story commercial structures, the Biedenharn Candy Company Building is now bordered on the south by an open parking lot. The adverse impact of the open space is lessened by the fact that the parking lot is landscaped with a variety of plant materials and partially screened from the street by a sympathetically designed 5-foot brick wall.

Plans for the restoration of the Biedenharn Candy Company Building are currently being formulated by local architect S. J. Tuminello at the request of the city of Vicksburg, which holds an option to purchase the structure. The plans call for the removal of the rear extension and the reconstruction of the bake house, in addition to the replacement of the interior partition on the first floor. The interior of the confectionary would be restored and returned to its original function, and the space which originally housed the shoe shop would be adapted for museum purposes.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

for bottling Coca-Cola, and it was only a matter of time before he did so. Kurtz quotes Joe Biedenharn's casual description of this important development in the industry:

I just went to work and bottled Coca-Cola right there in the Washington Street store where all the soda water equipment was located. I did not say anything to Mr. Candler about it, but I did ship to him the first two-dozen case of Coca-Cola I bottled. Mr. Candler immediately wrote back that it was fine. He made no further comment at all that I remember. . . . When Mr. Candler saw that I was doing well with bottled Coca-Cola he gave me the state of Mississippi as my territory and wouldn't let anybody else come in. The other territories we own were purchased by us later.

The "other territories" began with Monroe, Louisiana, and include Shreveport, Louisiana; Texarkana, Arkansas; and Wichita Falls, San Antonio, and Temple, Texas. The Biedenharn Candy Company Building, now at 1107-1109 Washington Street, harbored the beginnings of a family business and a worldwide commercial enterprise.

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The Washington Street property remained under Biedenharn family ownership until 1941. In that year, two transfers of the property brought it into the hands of the present owner, Mr. Haseeb Abraham (Deed book 221:402; Deed book 222:383), who in 1977 is negotiating to sell the Biedenharn Candy Company Building to the city of Vicksburg. The Vicksburg architectural firm of Godfrey, Bassett, Pitts and Tuminello has been engaged by the city to formulate plans for a combined restoration and adaptation of the structure that will return the confectionary space to its original function and reestablish the property's historical association with the bottling of Coca-Cola through an interpretive program using early bottling machinery.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kurtz, Wilbur G., Jr. "Joseph A. Biedenharn." In The Coca-Cola Bottler, 50th Anniversary Edition. Atlanta, Ga.: Coca-Cola Company, April, 1959.

Munsey, Cecil. "Joseph A. Biedenharn: First Bottler of Coca-Cola." In The Illustrated Guide to the Collectibles of Coca-Cola. New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1976.

Sanborn Map Collection for Mississippi. "Vicksburg." Vol. 5, p. 7. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1925. Map Collection, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Warren County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Records.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890, 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Biedenharn Candy Company Building in Vicksburg, Mississippi, occupies a significant place in the commercial history of Vicksburg and in the industrial history of America. Constructed in 1890 as a relatively simple mercantile edifice on what was and is a primary commercial thoroughfare in downtown Vicksburg, the Biedenharn Building is distinguished as the place where, in 1894, Joseph Augustus Biedenharn (1866-1952) became the first person to bottle the popular fountain beverage, Coca-Cola (Biedenharn; Kurtz; Munsey). From this initial accomplishment, Joseph Biedenharn and his six younger brothers built a family involvement with the Coca-Cola Company that spread from Vicksburg into Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, where the Biedenharn name is still synonymous with the bottling of Coca-Cola.

Joseph Biedenharn was born in Vicksburg, the son of German immigrant Herman Biedenharn, who had established a successful shoe manufacturing business in the growing Mississippi River city. In 1865, Herman Biedenharn had bought out a retail confectionary firm on Washington Street. He persuaded his brother Henry to move from Germany to operate the confectionary establishment while he continued to maintain his shoe business next door. As a boy, Joseph Biedenharn preferred working in his uncle's confectionary store to helping his father with the shoe business, and at the age of fourteen he left school to work full time for his uncle Henry. When Henry Biedenharn died in 1888, twenty-two-year-old Joe inherited his uncle's share of the confectionary business and became proprietor of the store. Biedenharn and Brother became Biedenharn and Son (Biedenharn, pp. 12, 24-26).

In 1890, Joseph Biedenharn and his father built a two-story brick building at what was then 218-220 Washington Street, on "Lot 194, Square 29 in Vicksburg Proper." The property had been purchased by Herman Biedenharn in 1885 from Samuel Friedlander of New Orleans (Deed book 58:44). The building served as a joint place of business for father and son, the space being divided equally between the confectionary business and the shoe store (Munsey, p. 17; Kurtz, n.p.). According to Wilbur Kurtz, Jr., writing from personal interviews with Joseph Biedenharn, it was in 1890, not long after Joe and his father had occupied their Washington Street building, that Joe was introduced to Coca-Cola by a traveling salesman and began to dispense the new drink at his soda fountain. A year later, Asa G. Candler of Atlanta enlisted Biedenharn to job Coca-Cola and sell it to the fountain trade in and around Vicksburg. Joe had been bottling his own soda water for several years, so he already had the necessary equipment

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biedenharn, Emmy-Lou. Biedenharn Heritage 1852-1952. Monroe, La.: Privately printed, 1962.

Chapman, H. P. and Battaile, J. F. Picturesque Vicksburg. Vicksburg, Miss.: Vicksburg Printing and Publishing Co., 1895.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

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

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A parcel of land consisting of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of Lots 194 and 195 in Square 29 in that part of the City of Vicksburg known as Vicksburg Proper, fronting on Washington Street at the west boundary and presently having the city address of 1107-1109 Washington Street. The lot measures approximately thirty-five feet (north-south) by one hundred fifty feet (east-west).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth P. Reynolds

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

May 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

# 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. Hilliard*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 10, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles E. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *12/2/77*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE *11-30-77*