

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 19 1986
date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic South Vicksburg Public School No. 200

and/or common Speed Street School

2. Location

street & number 900 Speed Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Vicksburg

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Warren

code 149

3. 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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: apartments

4. Owner of Property

name William P. Joseph, Jr.

street & number P. O. Box 16962

city, town Jackson

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi 39236

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Vicksburg

state Miss. 39180

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Speed Street School is located at 900 Speed Street in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The building is a two-story, brick school (73' x 67') with a two-story auditorium added ca. 1930. The building rests on a brick foundation and the tiled roof is a truncated hip, with a central gable on the northwest and southeast facades and a cross gable on the front (southwest) facade, over the original section and a flat roof over the auditorium. Both sections are enhanced with a corbelled brick cornice. The northwest and southeast gables are each enhanced by a corbelled brick end wall chimney. The southwest facade features a four-bay central projection flanked by two bays on either side, which creates room for an entrance on either side of the projection. Two shed roofs provide protection for these entrances. Two-panel, four-light windows allow light into the basement and are capped with segmental arches with brick voussoirs (several of which have been recently bricked-up). The front gable contains a single arched window containing four lights. A corbelled belt course divides the floors of the original building. The eight-bay northeast facade featured the same configuration of windows as does the front elevation until the 1940s when the two windows under the gable on the second floor were enlarged and doors put in. The rear elevation is covered by the auditorium addition with the exception of the windows at either ends of the building.

The auditorium addition (65' x 43') is attached to the rear of the main building. This addition does not significantly detract from the original building as it is not as tall nor as wide as the original section and therefore cannot be seen from the front elevation. It is also of the same material as the original building. The first floor of the northeast (rear) elevation of this addition exhibits a door, which has been recently boarded up, flanked by a single 6/9 combination industrial window to the southeast and six 6/9 combination industrial windows to the northwest. The second floor exhibits two 6/9/3 combination industrial windows to the southeast and two windows containing four sets of 6/9/3 combination industrial windows to the northwest. This addition also maintains three bays on the northwest elevation and four bays on the southeast elevation.

The interior of the original section exhibits two central halls which run the depth of the building and which are flanked by two rooms on each side on each floor. Each hall is closed, at the front, with two-panel, four light double doors each capped with a six light transom and at the auditorium with French doors. All the doors and windows have plain, molded surrounds with a pedimented surround head and are painted. The bases and chair rails are molded. The staircase of the south hall ascends straight to a landing and descends to the basement. The staircase has simple turned balusters and a square newel. The staircase in the north hall has been removed.

The Speed Street School operated as a school until 1940 when the City of Vicksburg sold it to Allein Post #3 of the American Legion. It was then sold in 1968 and became low-income apartments. During this time several windows were replaced with doors and ten foot partitions were used to divide the spacious 14' ceiling classrooms. With the exception of the removal of one of the staircases no historic fabric was damaged with these additions and they are easily reversible. The auditorium was also converted into apartments destroying no historic material.

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So. Vicksburg Public School #200,

Continuation sheet Vicksburg, Warren Co., Miss. Item number

8,9

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The citizens of Vicksburg, recognizing the necessity of public education somewhat in advance of most Mississippians, established the city's first public school in 1844. Fifty years later the residents of the then recently-developed area of south Vicksburg petitioned the School Board to provide a public school in their neighborhood. On January 14, 1895, the Speed Street School opened as South Vicksburg Public School No. 200. As late as the mid-nineteen-thirties it was one of only two white elementary schools in the Vicksburg public school system. The district also included a white high school and two schools for black students of all grade levels (Cooper, Sect. 3). Upon its closing in 1940, the Speed Street School was sold to the Allein Post #3 of the American Legion. It was again sold in 1968 at which time it was divided into low-rent apartments. The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation after which it will provide Section 8 housing to low-income and elderly residents of Vicksburg.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Board of Education Minutes, Vicksburg, Miss. 1880-1899, p. 343.

Cooper, H. V. "Superintendent Cooper Writes of Public Schools." Vicksburg (Miss.) Evening Post, April 23, 1934, Sect. 3.

McLemore, Richard Aubrey, ed., A History of Mississippi. Hattiesburg University and College Press 1973, p.623.

Santon, William, Architects File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1894 **Builder/Architect** William Stanton, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

South Vicksburg Public School No. 200, better known as the Speed Street School, is architecturally significant as a representative example of a series of one private and four public school buildings designed by Vicksburg architect William Stanton. It is significant in the area of education as the only surviving nineteenth-century school building erected by the oldest municipal separate school district in the state of Mississippi.

William Stanton had designed a number of institutional buildings in the Vicksburg area prior to receiving the June 7, 1894, commission to build an "eight room brick building of modern size rooms with a basement and necessary halls" on Speed Street (Board of Education Minutes, Vicksburg, Miss. 1880-1899 p. 343). These included the Yokena Presbyterian Church in 1885-86 (listed on the National Register (9/7/84), and the 1880's towered facade addition to the Temple Anshe Chesed (demolished 1983) both of which were marked with a highly individual handling of stylistic elements. Stanton's designs for schools included the St. Francis Xavier Academy Hall 1885-86, the Main Street, Walnut Street, and Cherry Street Schools of 1886, and the 1894 Speed Street School, all in Vicksburg (Stanton, William, Architects File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History). They were characterized by brick construction, symmetrical plans with central projecting gabled or towered entrance pavilions, and hipped roofs. Ornamentation was restricted to corbelled brick or bracketed wood cornices and simple lintels. Only the Speed Street School and the St. Francis Xavier Academy survive from this group.

Although the Mississippi Constitution of 1817 declared that "schools and the means to education shall forever be encouraged in this state," this was not generally interpreted as a commitment to public education. The majority of antebellum Mississippi schools were funded through tuition fees and private contributions. The first Mississippi School Law, enacted in 1846, failed to establish its intended county-based district system of public schools. Lacking a tradition of public education, Mississippi taxpayers were loathe to shoulder the expense of educating those less fortunate. After the War this opposition was further fueled by an inferred threat of Carpetbagger-imposed school integration.

It was not until 1870 that an effective public education law was passed which created a state-wide system of county-based school districts serving both whites and blacks, albeit separately (McLemore, Richard Aubrey, ed., A History of Mississippi [Hattiesburg University and College Press 1973], p. 623). The law required towns with populations exceeding 5,000 people to establish separate school districts. In 1870 the only towns which qualified were Natchez and Vicksburg. On October 6, 1870, the mayor and city council of Vicksburg appointed a board of school directors, thereby, creating the first municipal separate school district in the state (Cooper, H. V. "Superintendent Cooper Writes of Public Schools." Vicksburg [Miss.] Evening Post, April 23, 1934, Sect. 3). At present (1986) fifty-eight of Mississippi's one hundred fifty-four school districts are municipal separate school districts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Insurance Map Collection for Mississippi. "Vicksburg." New York: Sanborn Map Company. 1897, 1902.
Warren County, MS Courthouse. Deed Books 80 and 270.
Vicksburg City Schools Administration Office. Board of Education Minute Book 1880-1899, pp. 342,343,345,357,379.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Vicksburg-West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	9	9	0	6	18	3	15	7	19	7	12	12
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Square 9, part lots 34 and 35 of Harrisburg Survey, City of Vicksburg, beginning at the northeast corner of Marshall and Speed Streets then north 150', east 192½', then south to Speed Street 150' and west 192½'.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy H. Bell, Executive Director,

organization Vicksburg Foundation for Hist. Preservation date 8-6-85

street & number P. O. Box 254 telephone (601) 636-5010

city or town Vicksburg state MS 39180

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 February 11, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Joyce M. McPherson Entered in the National Register: date 3/20/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration