



# Historic Sites Survey (E)

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Chalmers Institute is a two-story hip-roof brick academic building with interior end chimneys. Brick flat arches cap the windows of the otherwise unembellished surface of the seven-by-three-bay building.

ALTERATIONS: The building has been used as a residence since the early twentieth century.

OUTBUILDINGS: None

LANDSCAPE FEATURES: None

NAME: The Chalmers Institute

STREET NO: West Chulahoma Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Holly Springs

COUNTY: Marshall

BLOCK/LOT: Lot 268

PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Charles N. Dean

ADDRESS 170 South Spring Street, Holly Springs

PRESENT USE: Vacant

FORMER USE: School, Private Residence

DATE: 1837

STYLE: Federal

ARCH/BUILDER: Unknown

SOURCE OF DATE:

ENVIRONMENT: Residential

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE ✓

NATIONAL

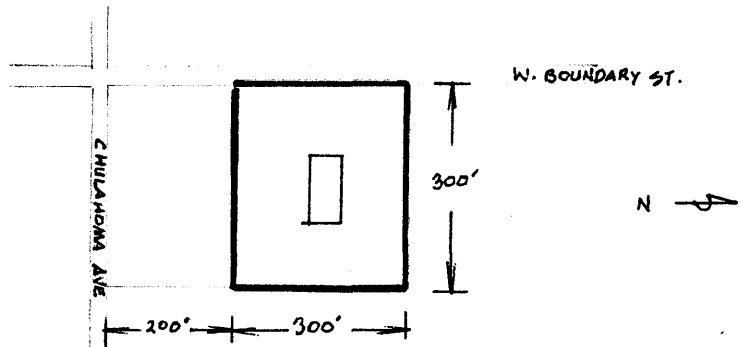
## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The oldest extant institutional building in Marshall County, the Chalmers Institute has many rich historical associations with the Holly Springs' prominence in education during the nineteenth century. Before the town was incorporated, residents of the settlement raised \$22,650 in bonds to build the two-story brick structure, opened in 1837 as the boys' Literary Institute. In 1838, the school was reorganized to include both a preparatory division and a college. It was called the University of Holly Springs - the first school in the state to be called a University. The University closed in 1839 and the property was transferred to the Methodist Church, under whose aegis a law and medical school was established in the building. After this venture failed in 1843, the building remained vacant until 1850, when the Rev. Sam McKinney opened the Chalmers Institute, a school for boys.

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:



CONTINUATION:

It flourished, despite competition from St. Thomas Hall, an academy established by the Rev. Francis Lister Hawkes, until the town was crippled by the Yellow Fever epidemic in 1878. The following year, still another school, the Holly Springs Normal Institute was opened in the building. In the early twentieth century, the old school building was adapted for use as private residence. It is currently undergoing repairs and renovation.

PHYSICAL CONDITION: Repairs and renovation in progress, 1980.

TREATS: None

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

See site plan

ACREAGE: approximately two

UTM REF:

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Pamela G. Guren, Architectural Historian      January, 1981  
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History

HOLLY SPRINGS MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION  
TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Holly Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi

1. Southwest Holly Springs Historic District
2. East Holly Springs Historic District
3. Depot-Compress Historic District
4. North Memphis Street Historic District

- A. Oakview, Rust College Campus
- B. The Wilkerson House - DOE
- C. Holly Springs Power and Electric Company
- D. The Malone House
- E. The Chalmers Institute
- F. Hillcrest Cemetery

