

MAR 2 1986

SEP 30 1985



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This two story, clapboard farmhouse has side gable peaks and rests on brick piers. Its central, projecting, front bay features entrances with transoms and sidelights on the first and second stories. The full-width front porch with its wooden balustrade, posts and bargeboard is not original to the house. The majority of windows are 4/4 double hung sash with bracketed lintels. Some still retain their wooden shutters. The endboards feature either a simple capital or a more picturesque treatment near the top.

ALTERATIONS:

The second story, front facade windows have wooden grills across their lower sashes. The rear, clapboard addition with its full-width porch is also not original to the house, as is the front porch.

OUTBUILDINGS:

To the rear of the house is a round springhouse (see photo) and a frame shed with a corrugated tin roof.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The house is situated on a large shady lot with several mature trees.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This house is known as The Strawberry Patch because in the last half of the 19th century, it was surrounded by 100 acres of strawberry fields. Dr. H. E. McKay, the owner of the house, was called the Strawberry King in the 1870's because he and his brother were the first in the area to have their fruit shipped North by rail.

This practice began in 1866-1867 when the Illinois Central Railroad began shipping strawberries from southern Illinois to Chicago. As the technology improved, farmers further south were also able to ship their strawberries north. The heyday for the strawberry industry in Mississippi was in the 1870's and the 1880's. By the late 1880's, fast express refrigerator service on the Illinois Central enabled berries to be shipped from as far south as Louisiana.

This house, as the last remaining part of the McKay farm, is significant in local history. (continued on back)

NAME: Strawberry Patch/McKay House

STREET NO: Old Canton Road

TOWN/VIC: Madison

COUNTY: Madison

BLOCK/LOT: N/A

PRESENT OWNER: Madison Co. Board of Supervisors
ADDRESS P. O. Box 404, Canton, MS 39046

PRESENT USE: vacant

FORMER USE: residence

DATE: may have some elements dating from 1840/
stylistic character suggests 1870's.

STYLE: vernacular w/ Greek Revival & Italianate
elements

ARCH/BUILDER: unknown

SOURCE OF DATE: Shelton, Karen. "Celebrate Straw-
berries." Jackson Daily News, May 7, 1981 and

ENVIRONMENT: estimate.
Private school across the road.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL X

STATE

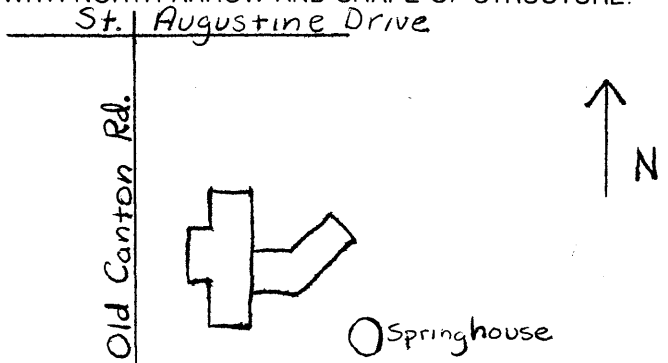
NATIONAL

PHOTOS

Roll 1544 - 24, 26, 27, 28

NEG. #

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



CONTINUATION:

SOURCES:

"Celebrate Strawberries," Jackson Daily News (5-7-81)

Stover, John F., History of the Illinois Central Railroad
(NY: 1975)

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

good

THREATS:

This building is threatened by the suburban development spreading north from Jackson.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This property lies within a portion of Blocks 1 and 2 of the Ella Lee Subdivision in the E1/2 of the NE1/4 of the SW1/4, Section 8, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Madison County, Mississippi

See Deed (copy attached).

ACREAGE: 4 acres

UTM REF:

A	15	772090	3593600
	ZONE EASTING		NORTHING
C			
B			
	ZONE EASTING		NORTHING
D			

FORM PREPARED BY:

Susan M. Enzweiler

DATE

7/85

FORM ONE

NO. 1866

(For use when leasing land for gross sum)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF MADISON

In consideration of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) cash in hand paid by E. Kelly Currie, Jr., and wife, Kay H. Currie, as Lessees, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the payment annually by Lessees, in time to prevent default, of all taxes which may be levied upon said land, including all legal assessments for drainage benefits, the undersigned does hereby let and lease, subject to the reservations and provisions hereinafter set out, unto E. Kelly Currie, Jr., and wife, Kay H. Currie, as joint tenants with full right of survivorship and not as tenants in common for a term of 65 years beginning upon the 5th day of April, 1976, and ending upon the 4th day of April 2041, the following described lands in Madison County, Mississippi, to-wit:

Four (4) acres surrounding residence known as the "Strawberry Patch" and located on Old Canton Road, said four acres being located in the following described property: Being situated in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Madison County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the NE corner of Traceland North, Part II, as recorded in Plat^m Book 5 at page 47 of the Chancery records of Madison County, Mississippi, and run thence East 54.8 feet; run thence North 381.6 feet to an iron bar on the East R.O.W. line of Old Canton Road and the point of beginning for the property herein described; run thence North 0 degrees 25 minutes West along the East R.O.W. line of Old Canton Road 208.75 feet to an iron bar; run thence North 1 degree 27 minutes East along the East R.O.W. line of Old Canton Road 208.75 feet to an iron bar; run thence South 89 degrees 29 minutes East 415.69 feet to an iron bar; run thence South 0 degrees 31 minutes West 417.44 feet to an iron bar; run thence North 89 degrees 29 minutes West 415.69 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.00 acres, more or less.

SPECIFICALLY reserving and excepting from this lease all merchantable timber, now and during the term being situated on said land, and any and every interest in oils, gases and other minerals