

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



679

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company Building  
other names/site number:

## 2. Location

street & number: 300 West South Street  
city or town: Jackson  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Hinds code: 049 zip code: 39203

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*L. E. Tolnis*

*5-19-2008*

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register,  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*Edson H. Beall* *7.16.08*

**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:**

Private

**Number of Resources within Property:**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:**

Building

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

1

0

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:**

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

**Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):**

No style

**Materials:**

foundation: concrete

roof: asphalt

walls: brick

other

**Narrative Description:**

See continuation sheets

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1905-1925

**Significant Dates**

1905, c. 1909-14, c. 1914-18, 1925

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

G.T. Hallas &amp; Co. (builder of the oldest part of the building)

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography** See continuation sheet.**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	15	764465	3576650

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title:	Richard J. Cawthon, consulting architectural historian	date:	June 2007
organization:		telephone:	601-206-9295
street & number:	P. O. Box 1108	zip code:	39215-1108
city or town:	Jackson	state:	MS

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name:	Patrick Pigott	telephone:	601-352-3722
street & number:	300 West South Street	zip code:	39203
city or town:	Jackson	state:	MS

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Narrative Description**

Constructed in several stages from 1905 to 1925, the Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company Building is a locally notable example of industrial architecture from the early twentieth century. It is apparently the most intact example of brick and timber mill-type construction surviving in Jackson from the 1900-1925 period.

Located in an industrial area several blocks southwest of Jackson's downtown commercial area, the building is positioned on the north side of South Street, just to the east of Gallatin Street. It occupies a triangular site that is bounded on the east by the tracks of what was formerly the main line of the Illinois Central Railroad, connecting Chicago and New Orleans, and on the northwest by the tracks of what was formerly the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad's line from Jackson to Natchez.

The Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company Building offers an interesting contrast to the N & W Overall Company Building, which was built in 1928 and is located several blocks to the southeast. While the N & W Overall Company Building provides a textbook-quality example of the type of mill construction promoted by fire insurance underwriters in the 1920s, the Mississippi Foundry Building exemplifies the standard manner of mill-type industrial construction of the preceding two decades, before the use of structural concrete and of steel industrial windows became widespread. (The north wing of the Foundry building, however, built in 1925, does have steel windows.)

The Mississippi Foundry Building has exterior load-bearing walls of brick containing an internal structure of heavy timbers. Overall, the building has a reversed L-shaped plan. The older part of the building, which forms most of the base of the L, is a roughly rectangular two-story structure, aligned on an east-west axis, that terminates in a narrow truncated wedge shape at the west end. At the eastern end of the two-story block, extending to the north and forming the stem of the reversed L, is a long wing, added in 1925. The exterior walls of the building are uniform in height, rising to a parapet that surrounds the flat roof. Although parts of the building were built at different times, the walls are visually unified by a continuous corbelled brick cornice, three courses high, capped by a concrete coping, and, several feet below that, a projecting belt two courses in height.

The older, two-story part of the building extends along South Street. At first glance it appears to be evenly divided into bays, which are visually defined by windows, but closer examination reveals that the bay configuration is irregular, and that the windows appear in four distinct clusters, dividing the south wall into four segments, each of which was built at a different time.

The portion of the south wall that is farthest to the east (farthest to the right, when viewed from the south) is the newest part of the building, built in 1925. In this part of the south wall are two large steel industrial windows, flanking a former vehicular door that has been bricked-in. Directly above the bricked-in door is a third, smaller steel window.

The oldest part of the building, built in 1905, is visible from the south as roughly the second quarter of the south wall, counting from the right, just to the left of the 1925 portion. At the eastern end of this part

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of the south wall is the former office entrance, which is framed by brick pilasters and capped by a pediment. To the left (west) of this entrance are two tiers of segmental-arched four-over-four double-hung wooden-sash windows, arranged in eight bays. On the lower story, the windows in the first two bays (immediately to the left of the main entrance) have been removed and replaced by a single broad rectangular window, and the fourth window has been partially bricked in, with a door inserted in its place. Upon the parapet at the top of the wall and extending along the length of this oldest part of the building is a sign, made of free-standing metal letters, forming the words MISSISSIPPI FOUNDRY AND MACHINE COMPANY.

Sometime between 1909 and 1914 (according to Sanborn insurance maps), the building was enlarged toward the west. This second phase of construction is visible on the south wall as another seven bays of two tiers of segmental-arched four-over-four double-hung wooden-sash windows (separated from the first eight bays by a short span of unbroken wall). On the lower story, a double-leaf wooden vehicular door takes the place of two of the windows.

The second portion of the building was originally bounded on the west by an alley. When the building was enlarged again, sometime between 1914 and 1918, the alley was left in place as an open passageway extending through the building on the lower story. The third phase of construction is expressed externally on the south wall as another ten bays of two tiers of segmental-arched four-over-four double-hung wooden-sash windows (separated from the other bays, again, by a short span of unbroken wall, which extends over the open passageway). On the lower story, the two windows just to the left of the passageway have been replaced by a single broad rectangular window, and another two windows further to the left have also been replaced by another broad rectangular window.

The western end of the building has the form of a truncated wedge, shaped in such a way that the western end wall (which is perpendicular to the south wall) is quite narrow, containing a doorway (which was originally wide enough to be a vehicular door, but which now contains a single-leaf commercial door), above which are two segmental-arched four-over-four double-hung wooden-sash windows.

To the north of the narrow end wall, the wall is set back at about a 45 degree angle, forming a chamfered corner. This northwest stretch of wall contains two tiers segmental-arched four-over-four double-hung wooden-sash windows arranged in five bays. To the east of this angled wall, the north wall is parallel to the south wall. The openings in the north wall also mostly segmental-arched four-over-four double-hung wooden-sash windows, but they are less regularly positioned than on the south wall, and some have been closed-in.

The north wing, which also forms the east end of the building, was built in 1925 to replace an earlier north wing. Its position is not quite perpendicular to the older part of the building, but instead it is canted westward at an angle of about 75 degrees. Because of this angle, instead of being rectangular in plan, it has the shape of a slightly angled parallelogram. The north wing is arranged into regular bays by the steel structural frame which supports its roof. The western wall of the north wing contains seven bays extending northward beyond a small doorway. Five of these bays contain large, broad, steel-sashed

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industrial windows. The third bay contains a vehicular doorway, and the seventh bay an industrial window has been taken out to form another broad doorway. On east side of the north wing, extending along the entire east side of the building and facing toward the railroad tracks, are eleven large steel windows set in evenly-spaced bays, which are aligned, at a slight angle, with the windows on the west. The north wing is arranged into regular bays by the steel structural frame which supports its roof.

The interior of the older, two-story part of the building was originally divided by brick fire-walls into three parts, corresponding to the three stages of construction. Parts of the first story were partitioned into an office area and a sales area. On the upper story, each of the three segments originally contained a single large, open room, with a thick wooden plank floor and a single row of heavy timber posts supporting the ceiling. In recent years, partition walls have been inserted into these large rooms to create several loft apartments. The apartments have been done in a manner that does not compromise the historic character and integrity of the building. The original brick walls, wooden-sashed windows, heavy plank flooring, timber structural posts and beams, and wooden plank ceilings remain intact and exposed, and the partition walls have been installed in a nondestructive and reversible manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

The interior of the north wing is a single large open space, interrupted only by the steel columns of the structural frame.

Although machinery of the foundry has been removed, the building itself retains a very high degree of physical integrity from the period of its construction from 1905 to 1925. There have been no major changes to the exterior. The only evident changes are on the interior are from the insertion of the loft apartments into the large open rooms of the older part of the building.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company Building is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is one of the best preserved of the very few remaining examples in the Jackson area of a multi-story industrial building of brick and heavy timber construction from the 1900-1925 period. The oldest part of the building was constructed in 1905, and it was enlarged about 1914 and again about 1918. In 1925 the foundry wing on the east side of the complex was replaced, completing the construction of the existing complex. The complex stands today as a well-preserved and representative example of the more substantial mill-type buildings of brick and heavy timber construction that were built for such businesses as foundries, agricultural implement makers, cotton mills, clothing manufacturing companies, and wholesale distributing companies that were vitally important to Mississippi's economic development during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

The city of Jackson developed substantially as a transportation and industrial center during this period. "...[T]he full significance of its strategic location became noticeable in the decade between 1900 and 1910 when the number of industries doubled and the population of Jackson jumped from 7,816 to 21,262."<sup>1</sup> Despite the importance of that period in the economic development of the city, there are very few industrial buildings from the first two decades of the twentieth century still standing in Jackson, and most of those that do survive have been extensively altered. The Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company Building is one of Jackson's few surviving industrial buildings from that period.

The Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company was founded in 1900 as a manufacturer of agricultural implements. Initially its major product was the Pope Side Harrow, which had previously been made by the firm of Crawford & Lapton Bros. That firm was reorganized in 1900 as the Jackson Harrow Company, which was, in turn, sold to the Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company. (The original foundry operated by Crawford & Lapton Bros. had stood alongside the Illinois Central Railroad on the eastern side of the property. It was demolished about 1925 when the Illinois Central Railroad elevated its tracks, and it was rebuilt in 1925 as the new foundry wing.)

The company continued in operation at this location for over ninety years. In 1953 it was cited in *The Story of Jackson* as one of the major industrial companies established soon after 1900 that was still active at that time.<sup>2</sup> Through the years the company's product line gradually changed. In its early years it produced agricultural implements and steam mill components. By the 1950s it has shifted its production to mill and industrial supplies and oil and gas well equipment. By 1959, its major products were oil and gas well supplies.<sup>3</sup> The company ceased operation about 1991.

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<sup>1</sup> Wendell W. Black, "Industrial Development in Jackson," in William D. McCain, ed., *The Story of Jackson: A History of the Capitol of Mississippi 1821-1951*, Vol. I. (Jackson, Miss.: J.F. Hyer Publishing Company, 1953), p. 311.

<sup>2</sup> Black, "Industrial Development," in *The Story of Jackson*, vol. I, p. 314.

<sup>3</sup> From information previously compiled for Patrick Pigott of Ironworks Unlimited, current owner of the building, from Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company records.

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**Bibliography**

City Directories, Jackson, Mississippi, 1916, 1922, and 1927-28 through 1993.

*Kidder-Parker Architects' and Builders' Handbook*, 18<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1931 (7<sup>th</sup> printing, 1945).

McCain, William D. *The Story of Jackson: A History of the Capitol of Mississippi 1821-1951*. Vol. I. Jackson, Miss.: J.F. Hyer Publishing Company, 1953.

Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Maps of Jackson, Mississippi, 1909, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1946, and 1962.

**Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description

The property associated with the Mississippi Foundry and Machine Works Building consists of a roughly triangular tract, approximately one acre in size, located on the north side of South Street just east of Gallatin Street, in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 10, Township 5 North Range 1 East, in the City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. The property is bounded on the south by South Street, on the east by the western edge of the right-of-way of the Illinois Central Railroad (now Canadian National), and on the northwest by the southeastern edge of the right-of-way of the (former) Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company.

Boundary Justification

This is the parcel of land historically associated with the building.





Mississippi Foundry and Machine Company Building  
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Approximate plan of first floor  
Not to exact scale

