

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mississippi

COUNTY:
Oktibbeha

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
MAR 26 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Montgomery Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mississippi State University Campus

CITY OR TOWN: Mississippi State (Starkville vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: Mississippi 39762 CODE: 28 COUNTY: Oktibbeha CODE: 105

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) RECEIVED

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mississippi State University

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Mississippi State (Starkville vicinity) STATE: Mississippi 39762 CODE: 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Oktibbeha County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Starkville STATE: Mississippi 39759 CODE: 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Mississippi State University: Survey of Historic Architecture on the Campus

DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi 39205 CODE: 28

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Oktibbeha
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stylistically, Montgomery Hall is a manifestation of Beaux Arts Classicism as it was interpreted particularly throughout the southern states. The main block of the building is a three-story rectangular brick structure with full basement and an attic beneath the hipped roof. Projecting wall planes form corner offsets on all four elevations and a central pavilion on the facade.

The pavilion is a tripartite composition which features four engaged, stuccoed-brick Corinthian columns flanking three bays at the second and third stories, supported by a podium at the first story. The articulation of the pavilion breaks through at roof level into a triangular pediment resting on abbreviated clustered pilasters, centered with a circular window, and ornamented with stone lions couchant atop the extended horizontal ends. The overdoor of the entrance is composed of a balustrade upon a cornice supported by carved keystone and consoles. Curvilinear cheek blocks with ornamental urns originally lined the front steps, and a balustrade punctuated with urns at the four corners originally bordered the roof, but both embellishments have since been removed. Window openings in the pavilion are arched on the first and third stories and flat on the second, with the openings of the top two stories separated by stone panels carved in an appropriately agricultural motif of fruit, flowers, and foliage. The remaining windows on all four elevations are consistently treated, with flatheaded openings beneath bracketed stone lintels on the first three levels and rounded openings surrounded by arched brick coursework on the top story. Stone stringcourses band the building at the floor divisions, and a stone cornice with acanthus-carved modillions projects over a plain brick frieze.

A striking feature of the Montgomery Hall design is the five-story apsidal wing centered on the rear elevation. The apse roof terminates in a partially rounded lantern which conforms to the elongated plan of the wing and ties into the rear slope of the main roof. The apse was especially designed to provide space for a college library, with the central reading room on the main (or second) floor open to the metal-coffered ceiling of the lantern, and galleries for book stacks circling the third and fourth floors. In 1939 the floors of the galleries were extended and partitions installed in order to make complete stories, but the original piers, moldings, and lantern ceiling, although obscured, remain undisturbed. During the 1939 remodelling the interior of the rectangular block was gutted from basement floor to roof and rebuilt, the architectural firm in charge noting that the

...roof is supported by trusses and is framed independently of the interior construction, and except for a few rafter shores...is supported

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1902-1903**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1902-3 on the central campus of Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Mississippi State University), Montgomery Hall represents the successful culmination of early struggles in the development of the school's program of agricultural education. The 1902-1903 college catalogue announced that the new building was to be used by the agriculture, horticulture, veterinary surgery, biological, and rural and civil engineering departments, as well as the library and museum for which the apse of the building was specifically designed. Until additional departmental buildings were constructed in ensuing years, Montgomery Hall was the focal center of all academic activity in the agricultural sciences which constituted the mainstay of the A. & M. College curriculum, and the library remained in its first permanent home there until 1923. In the 1950's and 1960's, as academic departments proliferated, Montgomery Hall served as the first home for studies in Forestry, Psychology, Guidance Education, and Anthropology, and the building continues to provide useful office and classroom space for various University departments.

Erected twenty-five years after the founding of Mississippi A. & M. College, the "Scientific Building" was constructed during the energetic wave of expansion which John Crompton Hardy initiated when he became the third president of the college in 1900. Of existing campus buildings, only the Textile Building (now Industrial Education), constructed in 1900, predates Montgomery Hall. Minutes of the Board of Trustees of A. & M. College dated April 23, 1902, named R. H. Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as architect for a new "Scientific Building." The cost was limited to \$40,000.00 and the architect's fee set at five percent for "plans and superintendence." Board minutes of June 18, 1902, accepted the bid of McGee and Humphreys (spelled Humphries on the cornerstone) of Jackson, Mississippi, for a net contract price of \$36,577.75. The sum did not include the cost of the wiring, plumbing, or heating.

Something of the pride the young college felt in the modernity of the new facility is deduced from a statement in the college catalog for the 1902-1903 biennium that the "entire building is to be heated with steam, equipped with electric

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bettsworth, John K. People's College: A History of Mississippi State University. Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1953.

Cliatt, James Edward III. "Lindamood and Puckett, Trading as the Columbus Brick Company." Master's thesis, Mississippi State University, 1967.

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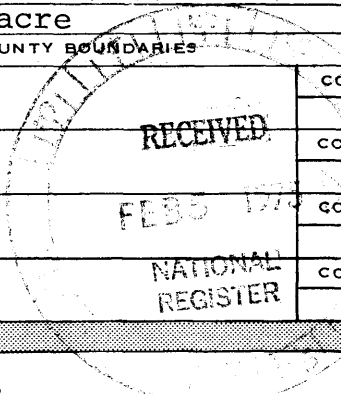
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		33 ° 27 ' 13 "	88 ° 47 ' 29 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO
2111
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elizabeth P. Reynolds, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: Jan. 27, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Elbert B. Hilliard
State Historic Preservation
Title Officer

Date January 27, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Wooten
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/26/75

ATTEST:
W. H. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-25-75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Oktibbeha	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	408 2 6 1975

(Number all entries)

REGISTERED

7. Physical Appearance (continued)

entirely on the outside walls of the building, so that the interior construction may be safely removed entirely without disturbing the roof construction.

8. Significance (continued)

lights, and have a complete system of plumbing." The May 8, 1903, minutes of the Board recorded that "Hunt reported work to be substantially completed," and that W. H. Howard "severed connection as superintendent." On November 25, 1903, the Board of Trustees approved "payment of \$3950.00 in architect's fees, superintendence and labor" on the Scientific Building and the infirmary which was under construction simultaneously.

The cornerstone of the Scientific Building must have been laid with full Masonic rites, for it included the name of E. N. Thomas, who was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State in 1903, and the Masonic dating of A. L. 5903 (Year of Light, calculated from 4,000 B. C.), as well as the A. D. dating of 1903. Mr. Thomas was also a member of the state legislature at the time and was elected speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1904. The complete inscription reads:

J. C. Hardy, President
Building Committee

W. B. Montgomery	A. T. Dent
T. L. Wainwright	J. J. Coman
Jas. T. Harrison	
E. N. Thomas	Grand Master
A. L. 5903	A. D. 1903
R. H. Hunt	McGee & Humphries
Architect	Builders

The minutes of the Board of Trustees for November, 1903, contain a motion to name the building then known as Scientific Hall the W. B. Montgomery Agricultural Hall and to erect a suitable tablet. A bronze plaque was accordingly mounted on the left wall of the entrance, with the following inscription:

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

REGISTER

8. Significance (continued)

MONTGOMERY AGRICULTURAL HALL
THIS BUILDING IS DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM BELL MONTGOMERY
FOR TWENTY-THREE YEARS
LOCAL TRUSTEE OF THE
MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE
HE GAVE VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE
AGRICULTURE OF MISSISSIPPI BY UNTIRING
EFFORT AS A TRUSTEE AND FAITHFUL WORK
AS A CITIZEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Montgomery Hall is historically significant as one of the oldest and most focal buildings on the Mississippi State University campus. But as important as Montgomery Hall's historical merits, is the building's position in the history of architecture in Mississippi and regionally. As an anonymous structure, Montgomery Hall provides an elaborate and interesting example of the Beaux Arts Classicism which was popular nationwide at the turn of the century but was only in rare instances applied to architecture in Mississippi. However, the identity of the architect, "R. H. Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee," lends even greater significance to Montgomery Hall.

Reuben Harrison Hunt (1862-1937) was a native of Elbert County, Georgia, who moved to Chattanooga at the age of 20 to enter the building trade. After studying architecture privately, in 1886 he formed the R. H. Hunt Co., Architects, and, according to the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, "became one of the most widely known members of his profession in the South" (Volume 28, p. 178).

The firm had its headquarters in Chattanooga and a secondary office in Dallas, Texas. In addition to many public, religious, and academic buildings in Chattanooga and throughout Tennessee, Hunt was responsible for structures in Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Arkansas, Virginia, and Mississippi. In 1937, Hunt's designs for the Chattanooga Post Office were included in a travelling exhibition of representative and distinguished buildings erected since 1918 in Great Britain and the United States, sponsored jointly by the Royal Institute of Architects and the American Institute of Architects.

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STATE	Mississippi	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

In Mississippi, R. H. Hunt is known to have been the architect for the City Hall in Yazoo City, the Chickasaw County Courthouse in Houston (1911), the first buildings of Mississippi Normal College (1912; now University of Southern Mississippi), and the 1903 remodelling of the Lowndes County Courthouse in Columbus, as well as several additional buildings on the Mississippi State University campus, and further research may yet reveal that more Mississippi buildings were the product of his talents. Of the identified Mississippi structures designed by Hunt, however, Montgomery Hall appears to have been the architect's first commission in the state, and its elaborate exterior makes the building at once his most exuberant and academic Mississippi building. As more information about Reuben Harrison Hunt's work in Mississippi comes to light, Montgomery Hall will continue to increase in architectural and historical significance as a documented example of his work.

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Gray, Elizabeth K. "Data to support nomination of Montgomery Hall for listing in the National Register of Historical Buildings [sic]." Typescript, 1973. (Mrs. Gray's study provided much of the information in the statements of significance and physical appearance.)

Mayes, Edward. History of Education in Mississippi. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1899.

Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. Biennial Reports, 1898-1904. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Mississippi State Building Commission and Mississippi State University. "Report on Mississippi State University, Physical Facilities." Building Commission of the State of Mississippi and Participating Colleges. Reports on Physical Facilities, Mississippi Colleges: Public and Private Institutions, 1967-68.