

PH0502588

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 15 1977  
DATE ENTERED OCT 28 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC \*\*  
Wetherbee House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
509 Washington Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

CITY, TOWN  
Greenville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Mississippi

CODE  
28

COUNTY  
Washington

CODE  
151

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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Council of Greenville Garden Clubs, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER  
P. O. Box 595

CITY, TOWN  
Greenville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Mississippi

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Greenville

STATE  
Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE  
1974  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
Jackson

STATE  
Mississippi

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wetherbee House is located in downtown Greenville on a flat, grass-covered corner lot defined by a picket fence. The house is positioned on the lot to allow a small front yard on Main Street, a narrow side yard separated from the side street by a row of large trees, and a large back yard crossed by hedges and brick walks. Across the back of the lot is a one-and-a-half-story brick structure known as the carriage house. Certainly, some of its symmetrically arranged and segmentally arched openings, now bricked up, are large enough to have admitted a carriage.

The house itself is a small, one-story frame and clapboard structure set on low brick piers and roofed with intersecting gables in a manner typical of American cottages of the late nineteenth century. The facade (northeast elevation) is like many of these cottages in its irregular juxtaposition of a forward-projecting ell and an adjoining verandah which extends to the southwest across the remainder of the facade. The front wall of the ell contains a pair of floor-length sash windows which once gave access to a small roofed balcony set below the present louvered opening in the gable of the ell. The verandah shelters the entrance door, set next to the ell, and two sash windows. The large glass panel of the door surmounts two wooden panels outlined with heavy bolection moldings like those found in the central hall, the front room in the ell, and the room behind it. Recently installed cast-iron mantelpieces adorn the back-to-back fireplaces in these two "best" rooms. On the other side of the hall are three smaller rooms, two of them decorated with simpler woodwork of an earlier character. The third room, forming a rear ell, was enlarged and remodeled, probably around 1900. The space between it and the end of the one-story, board-and-batten service building is now enclosed. A latticed verandah extends along the side of the service building, turns to cross the back of the ell, and turns again to follow the side of the ell and terminate at the back door of the hall. The verandah may have continued across the back of the northwest rooms where there is now a simple enclosed space for baths, dating from the first half of the twentieth century.

Structural evidence indicates that the house originally consisted of the front portion of the hall and the three rooms to the southeast. The architectural character of the other portions of the house indicates that these major additions probably were made not long after the original construction. A lesser remodeling occurred in the early twentieth century. Since 1973, the house has been partially restored to its pre-1900 condition.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the single residence remaining on Greenville's primary downtown thoroughfare, the Wetherbee House is a rare example of the modest cottage type of domestic architecture common to this town in the post-Civil-War decades. It stands as a concrete reminder of the town's post-war reestablishment as a commercial center for the Delta region.

The land on which the house is located was purchased in 1873 by Hiram Wetherbee (Deed book D2:481), who was born in Boone County, Kentucky, in 1842. Wetherbee was living with his parents in Galconda, Illinois, at the time of his enlistment in the Union army during the Civil War. He served with Company E, 120th Regiment Illinois Infantry, which was at Greenville prior to taking part in siege operations against Vicksburg from May to July, 1863. In returning to Greenville after the war, Wetherbee joined many other mid-westerners who settled in Washington County, Mississippi, during the 1860s and 1870s. The property had been a part of Blanton Plantation, out of which the new town of Greenville was carved after the original town five miles to the south was burned during the war. Establishing himself as a planter and a prominent hardware merchant, Wetherbee was typical of the post-Civil-War residents who, combining agricultural and mercantile interests, rebuilt Greenville and assured its place as a business center for the surrounding counties.

The residence remained in the Wetherbee family until December 27, 1973, when it was sold to the Council of Greenville Garden Clubs, Incorporated (Deed book 1300:156-57), for operation as a meeting place and house museum. The structure enjoyed substantial architectural integrity, and what few features had been altered are being restored to their original appearance by the current owners. The city of Greenville supports this preservation project by contributing to the maintenance of the house.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891. 2:1003.

Washington County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed books D2, 1300.

National Archives. Compiled Service Record of Hiram E. Wetherbee, 120th Ill. Infantry.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	8	0	4	0	0	3	6	9	8	2	8	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the southeast corner of Washington and South Hinds streets, the Wetherbee House property line follows south along South Hinds Street for 275 feet to an alley, then east for 65 feet, then north 275 feet to Washington Street, then west 65 feet to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Clinton I. Bagley, Historian  
 Ronald W. Miller, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE June, 1977

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE (601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN Jackson

STATE Mississippi

# 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 *Elmer R. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 1, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Ronald W. Miller* DATE *10-28-77*

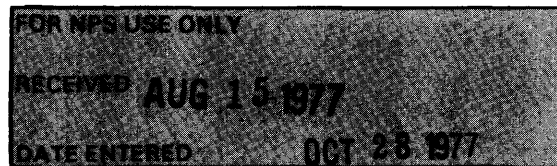
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION *Charles D. Smith* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles D. Smith* DATE *10-28-77*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harding, Mrs. Robert, Wetherbee House chairman, Council of Greenville Garden Clubs, Inc. Conversation with Clinton I. Bagley, historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, March 23, 1977.

Hudgins, Mrs. Jack, granddaughter of Hiram Wetherbee, Memphis, Tennessee. Conversation with Clinton I. Bagley, April 25, 1977.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Washington County. Wetherbee House.