



Historic Sites Survey (C)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Holly Springs Police Department building (Old Waterworks and Electric Light Plant) is a single-story brick building. Well-defined brick piers divide the three-bay facade and north elevation. The round arch windows feature sandstone imposts. The cornice line is enriched with brick corbelling.

ALTERATIONS: Rectangular plate-glass window installed in central bay of the facade. Other windows on west elevation bricked in.

OUTBUILDINGS: Police Department linked to Fire Department garage by a small single-story flat-roof brick building, ca. 1950.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Overlooks Spring Hollow Park, an old Chichasaw campsite first cleared and replanted in 1897-98.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Holly Springs Police Department occupies a building constructed in 1897-98 to house Holly Springs' first water and electric plant. Efforts to promote the installation of a town waterworks, one of the first in the state, were initiated in early 1897 as part of a plan to attract new industries to Holly Springs. It was also suggested that the citywide water system would reduce fire insurance rates by as much as forty percent. (South Reporter, 11 February 1897). By March, 1897, the city council had decided to combine the waterworks with an electric plant because "it was demonstrated that waterworks alone might not be self-sustaining, but in connection with an electric plant, the two would not only pay the expense of operating, but the interest on the bonds, and a clear profit of over \$1,000 to the city. (South Reporter, 25 March 1897).

After several months of surveying and inspecting waterworks plants in the

NAME: Holly Springs Police Department (Old Water- and Electric Light Plant)

STREET NO: 140 East Falconer Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Holly Springs

COUNTY: Marshall

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: City of Holly Springs

ADDRESS: Holly Springs, Mississippi

PRESENT USE: Police Department Headquarters

FORMER USE: Water Works and Electric Plant

DATE: 1897-1898

STYLE: Panel Brick

ARCH/BUILDER: Guild and Co., Contractors
 Chattanooga, Tenn.

SOURCE OF DATE: Cornerstone

The South Reporter, 21 July 1898

ENVIRONMENT: Commercial

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

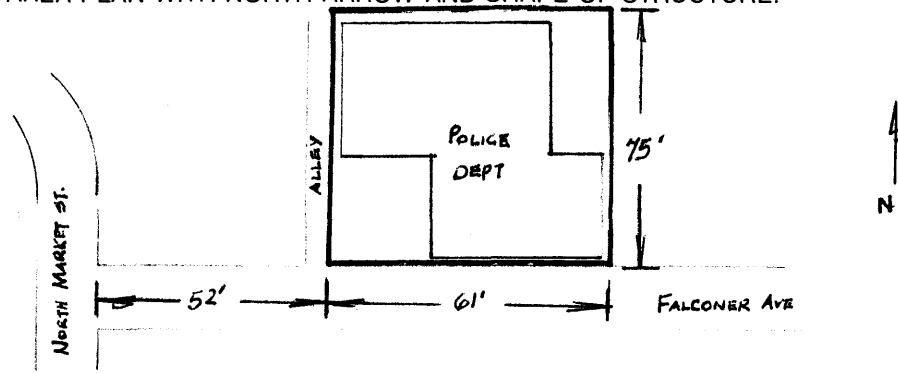
STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

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



CONTINUATION: towns of Granada, Jackson, Water Valley and West Point, the city council proposed "an ordinance for the purpose of securing waterworks and electricity" and the sale of \$43,000 in city bonds for that purpose. It was overwhelmingly approved by the city's voters on 12 August 1897 (Holly Springs Reporter, 12 August 1897). In September, after a long debate about the location of the proposed power plant, the Falconer Avenue site was selected. At the same time, improvements to nearby Spring Hollow Park were approved and initiated (South Reporter, 23 September 1897).

Despite the 1897 date inscribed on its cornerstone, the contract for the new waterworks plant was not let to Guild and Co until March, 1898 (South Reporter, 31 March 1898). Work on the building began in July shortly after the old Market House was demolished (South Reporter, 21 July 1898). Work on the plant progressed rapidly and by March, 1899, the first electric lights illuminated the city (30 March 1899).

Completion of the waterworks, however, was neither smooth nor swift. Well diggers contracted to dig the artesian wells encountered innumerable obstacles in their quest for water, requiring the drilling of several wells and the sale of an additional \$18,000 in bonds to finance the operation (South Reporter, 15 April 1899). By June 1899, however, an abundant supply of water had been located, a network of pipes had been laid throughout the city and the first one hundred households in Holly Springs were served with running water (South Reporter, 29 June 1899).

PHYSICAL CONDITION: Good

THREATS: None

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

See site plan

ACREAGE: approximately .10 acre

UTM REF:

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

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

January, 1981

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 47

7 - DESCRIPTION

- 290) Sailor House. (corner, Compress Street). One-and-one-half-story flanking-gable brick residence finished with stucco scored to immitate stone. Three-bay hip-roof porch supported by turned posts. Interior end chimneys. 1859. Gutted by fire, ca. 1975. Restoration in progress, 1980. (P)
- 291) Federal Compress Office. (corner, Compress Street). One-and-one-half-story gable-front office. Two-bay shed-roof porch supported by turned posts. Two-bay shed added to north elevation. Ca. 1920. (C)
- 292) Single-story flanking-gable frame saddlebag residence. Four-bay shed-roof porch supported by turned posts with spool-and-spindle brackets. Rural vernacular folk cottage, 1859. (C)
- 293) Holland House-Illinois Central Section House. One-and-one-half-story flanking-gable frame residence. Three-bay undercut gallery. Interior end chimneys. Greek Revival, 1859. (P)
- 294) Single-story pyramidal-roof frame residence. Two-bay undercut gallery supported by square posts. Exposed rafters. Rural vernacular folk cottage, 1930. (C)