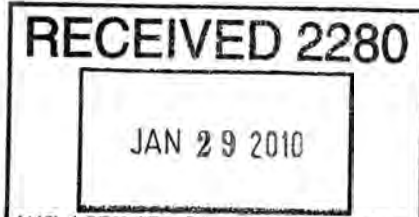


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

063



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 118 College Drive

not for publication

city or town Hattiesburg

vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Forrest code 035 zip code 39406

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national X statewide local

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

Jan. 27, 2010  
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

3-10-10  
Date of Action

University of Southern Mississippi Historic District

Forrest, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
23	5	buildings
		district
1		site
		structure
		object
24	5	<b>Total</b>

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

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCUATION/college

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/College

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Beaux Arts  
LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete, Stone

walls: BRICK, GLASS, STONE

roof: ASPHALT, OTHER

other:

University of Southern Mississippi Historic District

Forrest, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See continuation sheets

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**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheets

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### **Narrative Description**

The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District encompasses the earliest extant buildings constructed for educational purposes after the establishment of a regional state teacher's college in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in 1910. The campus is located northwest of the intersection of Hardy Street and U.S. Highway 49, west of downtown Hattiesburg. The historic district comprises the southeast portion of the campus. Surrounding areas are mixed use commercial-residential. U.S. Highway 49, which marks the eastern boundary of the district, is a multilane highway that traditionally connected Jackson, the state capital, with the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Development along U.S. Highway 49 adjacent to the historic district is largely commercial. Hardy Street, also State Highway 198, is a major local east-west artery with multiple lanes and forms the southern boundary of the district. Development along Hardy Street is primarily commercial with some residual residential areas. The areas to the west, northwest and north of the district are later-developed parts of The University of Southern Mississippi.

The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District is flat with no major topographic features. A broad lawn, with a small pond, separates the campus buildings from Hardy Street and features a rose garden. The historic entrance to campus consists of two parallel north-south streets, East Memorial Drive and West Memorial Drive, which bordered a large quadrangle occupied by institutional buildings. In recent years, West Memorial Drive has been closed to traffic and is now a pedestrian walkway with mature trees providing shade. Southern Drive, roughly parallel to Hardy Street, remains open to traffic and is the main east-west artery in the historic district. College Drive, an east-west street, near the north boundary of the district is also now closed to vehicular traffic.

The original campus plan drawn by Chattanooga architect R. H. Hunt remains clearly visible, although some alterations have occurred over time. Hunt established a north-south quadrangle which featured a domed administration building and auditorium. To the east and west Hunt established a series of multiple-story rectangular buildings placed on an east-west axis. These buildings include College Hall (Inv. 5) [Photo 0007], Forrest County Hall (Inv. 10) [Photo 0011], and Hattiesburg Hall (Inv. 12) [Photo 0018], served as classrooms, laboratories, library and dormitories. Green space separated these institutional buildings on the campus plan.

The central theme of the plan was advanced in 1927 when a dining hall (Inv. 9) [Photo 0006], now called The Hub, was constructed. The development of the central axis

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continued when the Administration Building (Inv. 1) [Photo 0001] and Bennett Auditorium (Inv. 3) [Photo 0002] were constructed on the same axis in 1929. The final building completing this axis was Danforth Chapel (Inv. 7) [Photo 0003], constructed in 1956.

Hunt's overall scheme is also reflected in the quadrangle east of the Administration Building (Inv. 1) which was created by the construction of Southern Hall (Inv. 28) in 1922 and Kennard-Washington Hall (Inv. 17) in 1939. A comparable quadrangle opens to the west of the Administration Building (Inv. 1), but it was partially filled by the construction of Stout Hall (Inv. 27) in 1966. The addition of Hickman Hall (Inv. 13) [Photo 0017] connecting Mississippi Hall (Inv. 22) [Photo 0016] and Hattiesburg Hall (Inv. 12) created another small quadrangle to the east of Bennett Auditorium (Inv. 3). However, there is no corresponding quadrangle to the west.

In addition to the institutional buildings, Hunt's campus plan included the Industrial Cottage (Inv. 15) [Photo 0015], now the Honor House, which was originally a facility to teach women homemaking skills, and the President's House (Inv. 23) [Photo 0014], now the Ogletree Alumni House. These buildings are in the southeast corner of the district in a park-like setting, near the intersection of Hardy Street and Highway 41.

As the school developed from a normal school to a comprehensive university, additional buildings were constructed away from the campus planned by Hunt. The Demonstration School (Inv. 8) [Photo 0004], constructed in 1927 to the west of College Hall (Inv. 5) and Forrest County Hall (Inv. 10), provided a laboratory for teacher training. The importance of the home economics curriculum was reflected by the construction of the Fritzche Home Economics Building (Inv. 11) [Photo 0005] in 1927, and enlarged in 1947.

As the college grew and added additional programs and students the uses of the original campus buildings changed. For example, College Hall (Inv. 5), one of the 1912 buildings, originally housed the administrative offices, the college library and a third floor auditorium. With the addition of the Administration Building (Inv. 1) and Bennett Auditorium (Inv. 3), College Hall (Inv. 5) became primarily used for classroom space. The library was moved to Kennard-Washington Hall (Inv. 17) in 1939. When that building became too crowded, the Cook Library (Inv. 6) [Photo 0021] was built in 1960 to the west of Forrest County Hall (Inv. 10). Cook Library was expanded twice and the McCain Graduate Library (Inv. 20) [Photo 0022] was added immediately to the south of Cook Library in 1976.

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Rapid growth after World War II strained the college's resources. Temporary buildings and buildings moved from Camp Shelby, a major training base near Hattiesburg, helped alleviate some of those problems. None of those temporary buildings remain in the historic district, but three dormitory buildings built to the east of Mississippi Hall (Inv. 22) and Hattiesburg Hall (Inv. 12) remain from that era: Bolton Hall (Inv. 4) [Photo 0019], Jones Hall (Inv. 16) and Pulley Hall (Inv. 26) [Photo 20] form the Freshman Quad near the northeast of the district, provided much needed living quarters.

Unlike many college campuses, The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District has lost no major building to fire or catastrophic loss, but several buildings have been demolished as needs changed. A number of frame buildings constructed for temporary use have been demolished. The Music Hall, immediately north of Cook Memorial Library, was demolished in the 1950s. Weathersby Hall, a dormitory constructed in 1947, was demolished in 2006. The ROTC and Industrial Arts Buildings, located near the center of the campus, were demolished in 2006. The George Commons was demolished in 2009. The Memorial Station, a streetcar station built as a memorial to students and faculty who served in World War I, was located at the Hardy Street entrance to the campus. After a large truck damaged the structure, it was demolished in the 1960s.

The primary architectural styles in The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District are Beaux Arts and Colonial Revival. Significant Beaux Arts buildings include the Administration Building, the Hub, and Bennett Auditorium. R.H. Hunt's original campus buildings were designed in the Colonial Revival style. Kennard-Washington Hall, Hickman Hall and The HP & R Building are examples of later Colonial Revival style buildings. The Hurst Building (Demonstration School) exhibits Art Deco detailing. Modernist buildings are well represented by Marsh Hall, and the three dormitories on the Freshman Quad, Bolton, Bond and Jones.

Major noncontributing buildings are the Cook Library, Pulley Hall, Stout Hall and the McCain Archives and Library Building. Cook Library was originally constructed in 1960. However major additions and alterations were completed in 1968 and 1996, obscuring the historic section of the building. Pulley Hall, Stout Hall and McCain Library were built outside the period of significance.

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**Inventory**

C=Contributing Resource

NC= Noncontributing Resource

Buildings listed in alphabetical order, with date of construction. The architectural style and the architect responsible for the design are included. Contributing are marked C and noncontributing marked NC. No buildings have been previously listed on the National Register.

**1. Administration Building C 1929 Beaux Arts Vinson B. Smith, Jr.**

The Administration Building serves as the focal point of the historic district. It is a two-story, Beaux Arts building. The symmetrical plan is a cross with 45 degree angled walls connecting the ends of the cross. The four identical entrances are pedimented porticos supported by four fluted Corinthian columns. The south façade facing the historic campus entrance has the State Teacher's College shield in the pediment and "Administration Building" carved in the frieze of the entablature. The cornice has dentils and there is an ornamental terra cotta parapet wall with urns at each corner. Each three-bay portico has 9/9 double hung windows flanking the terra cotta frontispiece. The windows have flat arches of gauged voussoirs and keystones. The first floor windows are surmounted by terra cotta paterae. The paired entrance doors are half-glass with twelve lights and semi-circular transoms with radiating mullions. The frontispieces have urns and are surmounted by terra cotta tablets containing garland motifs. There are paired 9/9 double hung windows above the door.

Each portico has brick quoins and fluted Corinthian pilasters. The angled walls connecting the porticos have paired 9/9 double hung windows. The first floor windows are surmounted by semi-circular brick patterns. The second floor windows have stone sills and brick flat arches with keystones. There is a brick parapet wall. There is a copper dome with a cupola in the center of the roof. The cupola has an iron balustrade and finial.

[Photo 0001]

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**2. Bedie Smith Clinic** NC 1962 J. Warren McCleskey

The Bedie Smith Clinic is a two-story brick building with a flat roof located just north of Kennard-Washington Hall. The building is roughly square with a projecting entrance.

The primary façade faces south. Plain brick walls flank the projecting entrance pavilion that features double metal-frame glass doors with double sidelights under a three-panel transom. Above the door on the second floor is a four panel window with fixed panes. A rectangular entablature is supported by two tapered columns in antis.

The east and west façades feature six bays consisting of glazed block panels separated by brick pilasters. Each bay has a four-panel metal window with mesh screens on each floor. One bay on each façade has the window only on the second floor.

The north face has a service entrance with offset of double metal-frame glazed doors under a metal canopy. A double three-panel metal window is centered, while two sets of metal doors provide access to mechanicals.

[Photo 0013]

**3. Bennett Auditorium** C 1929 Beaux Arts Vinson B. Smith, Jr.

Bennett Auditorium is a two story five bay brick building with a flat roof and brick parapet wall with a terra cotta cap. The parapet wall has ornamental roof urns. The sooth façade has an inset entrance portico with brick quoins and terra cotta inset semi-circular shelves that display urns. The second floor has a small eight-light window with a terra cotta sill and a brick flat arch of gauged voussoirs with a terra cotta keystone.

The entrance is a two-story, three-bay inset portico with simple fluted Corinthian columns. The entrance floor is terra cotta tile. Three identical paired doors have Palladian windows and seven-light transoms. The doors are encased in terra cotta frontispiece with bas relief oil lamp and garland motif and a broken apex pediment with a lyre inset. The second floor of the portico has paired 6/6 double hung windows with brick flat arches of gauged voussoirs and keystones.



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Above the entrance portico is a large entablature which runs the perimeter of the building. The cornice has dentils and the friezes have ornamental paterae and "Auditorium" above the entrance. The east and west elevations have 12/12 double hung windows with 6/6 sidelights. These windows are surmounted by elaborate semi-circular terra cotta fans. The north elevation of the building has brick diapering on the parapet wall. The rear entrance has brick quoins and fluted Doric columns supporting a simple terra cotta entablature.

[Photo 0002]

**4. Bolton Residence Hall** C 1953 Landry & Matthes

Bolton Residence Hall, built as "Girls' Dormitory" in 1953, is a four-story brick building with a flat roof. The building is rectangular on a north-south axis and, with Pulley Residence Hall and Jones Residence Hall, forms the Freshman Quad.

The primary façade (east) faces the Freshman Quad. On floors two through four there are thirteen bays consisting of a horizontal band of windows over brick panels. Each window has a large fixed central panel that has been replaced with wood (with the exception of one unit on the fourth floor) over a smaller panel, also replaced with wood. The large panel is flanked by a four panel unit consisting of three fixed panels and an operable hopper window.

On the first floor there are five bays with similar windows to the north. The sixth bay houses a recessed entrance with a single wood door with a transom and a sidelight. On the south is a large entry way recessed under the upper floors supported by five round columns. From south to north, the recessed entry has a single wood door with transom and sidelight, two units of three panel metal-frame fixed windows, a single metal frame glazed door with a sidelight, a three-unit large single pane window and double metal-frame glazed doors with a transom and a sidelight.

The north and south facades are similar. Two brick panels flank a vertical band of windows consisting of two fixed panels over a louvered vent.

The west façade faces a parking lot. There are twelve bays on floors two-four. The windows are the same as the windows on the north façade. The first floor has numerous openings. From south to north, there are three two panel hopper windows; a horizontal

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band of four three-unit metal windows consisting of a fixed panel flanked by two-panel sidelights; a single metal door under a metal canopy; a metal door with a louvered sidelight; a metal-frame glazed door with a transom and one sidelight and three two-panel metal-frame windows.

[Photo 0019]

**5. College Hall**                      C      1912      Colonial Revival      R.H. Hunt

College Hall is a three-story brick veneered building with a partial basement and a hip roof. The south is the primary façade with projecting gabled pavilions that flank a projecting two-story portico with seven Doric columns. A wide cornice with dentils appears on all facades, with returns on the gabled pediments. The main entrance under the portico has double wood doors with inset windows and three-pane sidelights in an arched opening. Three windows flank the doors, all with arched openings. All windows are four-light aluminum windows, thought to be replacements. Second story windows are rectangular openings. Windows on the projecting porticos are S, D, S on all three floors. All windows have limestone keystones.

On the west façade all openings are bricked in. There was a door centered on the first floor with flanking single windows, all in arched openings. The second and third floor had S, D, S windows.

The north façade mimics the south, with the two projecting gabled pavilions. Fenestration is similar. Between the pavilions on the first floor a double-leaf metal glazed door with a transom opens to a breezeway. The door is flanked by S, D windows. On the upper floors the windows are S, D, D, S, with several bricked in.

The east facade has double-leaf glazed metal doors with side lights centered on the first floor under a cantilevered canopy. The door is flanked by single windows in arched openings. Second and third floor windows are S, D, S in rectangular openings.

[Photo 0007]

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**6. Joseph A. Cook Library**

NC

1960/1996

Biggs, Wier &  
Chandler

The Cook Library, a two-story pre-cast concrete and brick with reinforced concrete and a flat roof, was constructed in 1959-60 and the primary façade faced south. Major renovations and additions were constructed in approximately 1968 and 1996 that doubled the square footage and made the north façade the primary façade. At that time, the south façade of the original library building was renovated to more closely match the new addition. The original stairs to the south entrance are still in place and unaltered and are the only exterior feature of the 1959-60 building remaining.

The north façade is five stories with a central concrete tower that rises to a pediment. The first two floors of the tower project slightly with arched openings. A band of arched windows in the concrete surround extends to the edges of the building. The windows are fixed and multi-light. Similar arches with brick piers create an arcade along the first floor. A large multiple-light fixed window rests between the concrete surround on floors three-five. The concrete tower is flanked by a brick walls with twelve bays of small rectangular windows with concrete lintels.

The east and west facades are similar, with five floors. At the north end, the first floor is open to the arcade. Floors two-through five have large four-panel windows. A concrete band extends along the elevation above the second floor. There are eight bays, with large windows on the second floor and smaller windows on floors three to five. An entrance with double-leaf glazed doors is offset to the south.

[Photo 0021]

**7. Danforth Chapel** C

1956

Landry & Matthes

Danforth Chapel, built in 1956, is located on the north end of the historic campus, north of Bennett Auditorium and south of the Hub. The one story brick structure with a gable roof is rectangular in shape with a half-round apse, housing a boiler room, on the south façade. The north front gable wall is the primary façade. Double six-panel wood doors are centered under a flat roof canopy supported by four classic wood columns. Above the canopy is a large six-panel pentagonal stained-glass window that reaches the gable apex. A narrow metal cornice is found on all sides of the building. A tapered concrete corbel, probably a structural member, outlines the brick façade.

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The east and west facades are very similar with two full height brick panels flanking three large stained glass windows set high in the wall. Each window has nine panels with an operable hopper window, covered with a screen. Below the windows is a patterned brick panel. Concrete corner posts are exposed.

The south façade features a half-round apse with a metal-seam pyramidal roof. There are double metal doors with louvered vent panels under a louvered vent open off the east face. A single metal door opens off the west. The gable end features the same tapered corbel seen on the north face.

[Photo 0003]

**8. The Demonstration School**      C      1927      Art Deco      N. W. Overstreet

The George Hurst Building, built as the Demonstration School, is a one-story brick with reinforced concrete building in a modified H-plan. The central, primary (south) façade is 5 bays and has several decorative brick courses and decorative cast stone details. The aluminum windows are replacements (6-light, horizontally divided). Each ell, as well as the central primary façade, has stone coping along the parapet, a central entranceway, and a decorative stone parapet over the entrance only. The parapet on the central bay of the primary façade features a cartouche and carved lettering below that states: "Demonstration School." Concrete steps lead to all three of the south entrances.

The west façade of the building has no decorative details. A narrow concrete band runs horizontally, below the windows, the full length of this façade. The north façade has no decorative details. The northwest ell is a later addition. The central section of the building has in-filled windows on the west and an addition to the north (approximately 15 feet deep).

[Photo 0004]

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**9. The Dining Hall C 1927 Beaux Arts Vinson B. Smith, Jr.**

The Dining Hall, now The Hub, built 1927, is a one-story brick building with a flat roof and extensive Beaux Arts classical detailing. The Hub is north of Danforth Chapel, west of M. M. Roberts Stadium and south of the R.C. Cook Union Building, which is connected by a concrete and glass hyphen.

The main façade faces south and features a monumental entrance pavilion (open on three sides) with a wide architrave, modillions, a wide cornice with the words "The Hub" embossed in raised letters on a panel, and a centered parapet with scrolls rising to a point. The parapet is flanked by urns. The entire pavilion projects from the front wall of the building and is supported by L-shaped fluted antae. All surfaces are scored to resemble stone blocks. Two Doric columns were placed in antis, probably at a later date.

The recessed entry is highly detailed. Tall windows with concrete keystones and sills flank a broken pediment that opens to a small lobby. Two metal doors with a thin transom sit between double pilasters. The east wall has wainscoting with two half pilasters while the west wall has full height pilasters. On the south wall of the recessed entry foyer double pilasters with rosettes in the capitals flank the opening.

The south façade is highly symmetrical. A brick parapet wall with a concrete capstone rises above a broad cornice. Four large arched metal replacement windows flank the entrance pavilion. Each has concrete keystones and concrete lintels. There is a concrete watertable and brick quoins on each corner.

Two pavilions are set back from the main front wall. On the west pavilion, four steps rise to a landing with double metal-frame glass doors topped by a transom. The doors have a cast concrete surround with pilasters supporting a classic architrave, frieze and cornice. Above the doors is a square replacement window. The east pavilion is similar except the doors have been removed and replaced with a window.

The architectural detail continues on the east façade, including the brick parapet wall, water table, cornice and brick quoins with two arched windows. The east pavilion from the south facade projects beyond the main wall with the same details, including two arched windows. A flat-roofed wing extends to the north featuring six double metal clad replacement windows, each with concrete keystones and sills. The grade recedes to the north revealing a ground floor with two square windows flanking double wood doors

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under a metal canopy with a sign marked "Receiving." A ramp leads to double metal doors near the south end.

The north façade features brick quoins and two metal-clad replacement windows. A concrete and glass hyphen connects The Hub to the Cook Union to the north. On the west of the hyphen, the north façade of The Hub has one double metal replacement window.

The west façade continues the architectural details described above including the quoins. The north façade features brick quoins and two metal-clad replacement windows. A concrete and glass hyphen connects The Hub to the Cook Union to the north. On the west of the hyphen, the north façade of The Hub has one double metal replacement window.

The west façade continues the architectural details described above including the quoins, brick parapet wall, cornice, arched windows and watertable. To the north of the projecting west pavilion from the south facade is a large loading dock with a metal canopy. There were two additional arched windows which have been bricked in. To the north is another entrance pavilion with brick quoins, cast concrete pilasters and entablature and double wood doors with twelve divide lights under a 16-light transom. (These probably reflect the original configuration of the doors and transoms and may be the only original exterior doors remaining in the building.) The doors are flanked by double square metal windows.

[Photo 0006]

**10. Forrest County Hall** C 1912 Colonial Revival R. H. Hunt

Forrest County Hall is a three-story, Colonial Revival, brick building with a clay tile hip roof with three dormers. A wide cornice with dentils is seen on all elevations. Corners of the building have brick quoins. Windows in fifteen bays are paired four-light aluminum with brick flat arches of gauged voussoirs with limestone keystones, some infilled with brick. The primary façade is south, with a projecting two-story, five-bay portico with simple Doric columns. The door is a double-leaf glazed metal without sidelights or transom.

The west façade has a pair of metal doors under a hip-roofed cantilevered canopy flanked by single windows infilled with brick. Windows on the second and third floor are S, D, S, also infilled with brick.

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The north façade has double-leaf metal doors with louvered vents set between sidelights filled with louvered vents under a hip-roof canopy. Windows are paired four-light aluminum, with some infilled with brick.

The east side has a three bay two-story portico with simple Doric columns. A double-leaf metal glazed door without sidelights or transom is flanked by single windows. Windows on the second and third floors are S, D, S.

[Photo 0011]

**11. Fritzche Home Economics Building** C 1927/1947 Colonial Revival  
Vinson B. Smith, Jr. (1927); Smith &  
Lachin

Fritzche-Gibbs Hall, built as the Home Economics Building, is a Colonial Revival two-story brick building with decorative brick quoins on each corner. Originally the primary façade faced south, but the 1947 addition reoriented the main entrance to the east façade. The roof is red Spanish clay tile. The east façade (1947 addition) has two gable fronts, each with pediments, flanking a center pavilion with a side gable roof. Each pediment has circular vents in the center. The main entrance in the center pavilion is sheltered by a semicircular portico with two fluted Doric columns and two fluted pilasters. All entrances are glazed French doors with fanlights, with the east entrance featuring replacement doors. The top of the portico features a metal balustrade with decorative ironwork in the center. On the second floor a French door with a four-light transom and four panel sidelights opens to the roof of the portico. The aluminum windows (replacements) each have five horizontal lights, with two single windows flanking the portico on each floor and one single window on the facing walls of the gabled ends. Each window has a keystone and flat arches at the lintel. The gable fronts feature paired windows on each floor. Two of the windows on the east façade have brick infill. A wood sun porch on the south end of the east façade, approximately 15'x 30', has wood parapet walls (approx. 3 feet tall), with wood pilasters and paired wood-panel spandrels below each window. The south façade of the sun porch matches the east façade. The wood porch on the south end of the west façade is an "open" version of the sun porch on the east façade. Dentil molding exists around the cornice and around the porticos.

The south façade (1927) has two gable fronts flanking a center pavilion. Like the east façade, which mimics this original elevation, there is a semicircular portico and quoins.

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However, the columns here have Corinthian capitals, and the door is a single eight-light glazed (replacement) door with a three-part fanlight and six-panel sidelights. The second floor entrance above the portico consists of two three-panel doors. Similar five-light windows flank the entry and facing walls of the gabled wings, except on the first floor of the east wing a twelve-light wood door under and eight-light transom is in the place of a window. Paired aluminum five panel windows are in place on both floors of the gabled wings.

The west elevation of the 1927 wing has eight windows on the second floor. A rectangular porch with a wide entablature supported by square columns is centered on the first floor. Double twelve-light French (replacement) doors with a fourteen light fanlight provide access to the first floor.

[Photo 0005]

**12. Hattiesburg Hall**      C    1912      Colonial Revival      R.H. Hunt

Hattiesburg Hall is a three-story brick building with a hipped roof and three dormers. A wide cornice with dentils is seen on all elevations. The primary façade is south and features a five bay two-story portico with simple Doric columns. Windows are paired four-light aluminum replacement windows, all with limestone keystones.

The south elevation features an ornate frontispiece with a single wood door with a glazed panel set between pilasters that separate it from three-panel sidelights over single wood panels. A three-light-transom is set in a segmental brick arch with limestone keystone.

The south elevation has a three bay two-story portico with simple Doric columns. A single wood glazed door with thin six-light sidelights and a 5/5 transom is flanked by paired windows. Windows on the second and third floor are D, D, D, with the center windows being wider.

The north elevation has a one-story three bay porch with square columns. The door is a single wood glazed door with three-light sidelights and three-light transom. The east elevation has a one story porch, possibly a more recent addition that connects to Hickman Hall.

[Photo 0018]



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**13. Hickman Hall C 1950 Colonial Revival Landry & Matthes**

Hickman Hall built as a woman's dormitory, originally named Senior Hall, is a four-story brick-clad building with a hipped roof and Colonial Revival detailing. With Mississippi Hall and Hattiesburg Hall, it forms a quadrangle just to the east of Bennett Auditorium in the historic core of the campus.

The west façade, facing the landscaped quadrangle, is primary. Eleven arched dormers with 6/6 double-hung-sash windows with simple wood pilasters are placed symmetrically along the hipped roof. A broad cornice with wood modillions surrounds the building. All corners feature brick quoins. Thirteen paired 4/4 double hung sash windows on the second and third floor have concrete keystones and brick sills. On the first floor four paired 4/4 double hung sash windows flank a one-story projecting entrance pavilion with a flat roof behind a parapet wall with a concrete capstone and wide cornice. Four large fixed windows, probably not original; in cast concrete surrounds flank the double metal-frame glazed doors with a transom. The doors are slightly recessed in a terra cotta surround with broken pediment holding an urn. The words "Hickman Hall" are painted on the transom while the words "Senior Hall" are on a cast metal plaque above the door. Nine steps lead up a large plaza with surrounded by a balustrade made up of alternating concrete panels and urn-shaped stiles.

The north and south facades are nearly identical with a covered walkway connecting Hickman Hall to the adjacent buildings. The walkway has paired square columns and wood rails and stiles. Double metal-frame glazed doors open to the main floor from the walkway. There are two paired 4/4 double hung sash windows on the second and third floors.

The east façade faces a parking lot at a lower grade, so a ground floor is also evident. Many of the decorative elements from the west façade are repeated including ten arched dormers, the wide cornice, modillions and brick quoins. There are thirteen 4/4 double hung sash windows on floors 1 through 3, with single windows on the edges and eleven paired windows between. The ground floor, from north to south, has three double metal doors, a single 4/4 double hung sash window, a paired window, a double metal door, a paired window and a single window. There are metal doors on the ground floor on both the north and east faces.

[Photo 0017]

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**14. HP & R Building C 1949 Colonial Revival Landry, Matthes and  
Oelscher**

The HP&R Building, constructed as the Women's Physical Education Building, is a T-shaped building facing the Trent Lott Center on the east side of the campus. The building has a two-story classroom/office wing, clad in brick with a hipped roof, which is rectangular on an east-west axis. A hyphen, originally one-story, connects the two story wing to the former gymnasium space, also clad in brick with a hipped roof. The gymnasium was converted into a two-story office/classroom space.

The two story wing has brick quoins at all four corners and brick modillions below the cornice on four faces. The north façade is primary. On the first floor, four double hung 9/9 replacement windows flank the entry. All windows have a concrete keystone, brick lintels and concrete sills. Double metal-frame glazed doors with a transom are slightly recessed in a cast concrete surround with pilasters and a broken pediment containing a rosette. The word "Physical Education" are incised above the door. There are nine windows on the second floor.

On the east façade there a pair of single double hung 9/9 replacement windows and a single leaf wood door, half glazed with six lights under a nine light wood transom. The door and transom probably illustrate the building's original window scheme.

The south elevation is divided by the hyphen connecting the building to the gymnasium wing. On the second floor there are three double 9/9 replacement windows. One window has been sacrificed to create an enclosed walkway from the second floor on the classroom wing to the gymnasium wing. There are two single 9/9 replacement windows on the first floor.

The west elevation of the two story wing has three 9/9 replacement windows on the second floor. Two windows on the first floor flank a slightly projecting entrance pavilion with brick modillions, a concrete capstone and cast concrete surround, housing a single leaf metal-frame glazed door with transom and sidelights.

The hyphen, originally one story with a flat roof, was modified with an enclosed hall from the second floor of the classroom wing to the second floor of the gymnasium. The hall has multiple light fixed panel windows. On the east of the first floor, the hyphen has

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three double hung replacement 9/9 windows with keystones. On the west, there are double metal doors with louvered vents.

The east and west facades of the gymnasium wing are identical with eight large windows with concrete keystones and brick lintels. The replacement windows have nine fixed lights over three panels over a spandrel with nine fixed lights on the first floor. Offices can be seen on the second floor, above the spandrel.

A rectangular brick wing with a flat roof is connected to the south of the gymnasium. The brick modillions continue. There is a single metal door under a metal canopy centered on the first floor, with four four-light fixed windows and a round louvered vent on the second floor.

The replacement of almost all original windows and the major alteration of the gymnasium space make this building ineligible individually. However, it retains sufficient exterior integrity to contribute to a campus historic district.

**15. Industrial Cottage**      C      1912      Colonial Revival      R.H. Hunt

The Industrial Cottage, now the Honor House, is a two-story Colonial Revival residence. This brick, three-bay structure has a hip roof with red shingles and three dormers. These dormers have double-hung windows with intersecting tracery in the top half and six lights in the lower half. The Honor House has brick quoins and a simple cornice with small dentils. The fenestration consists of 8/1 double-hung sash with brick flat arches of gauged voussoirs with limestone keystones. The central second floor window has sidelights.

The entrance is a projecting one-story three bay porch supported by four sets of three columns. The porch has an oval pediment in the center and a simple cornice with thin dentils. The entrance is a stile and rail, half glass door with a four-light transom. The door has eight sidelights that each has a two-light transom.

[Photo 0015]

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**16. Jones Residence Hall** C 1959 Landry & Matthes

Jones Residence Hall is a six-story dormitory building clad in brick with a flat roof. With Bolton and Pulley Halls, it forms the Freshman Quad. The building is rectangular in shape on an east-west axis and complements Pulley Hall across the quadrangle.

The south façade, facing the quadrangle, is primary. The building is divided into three pavilions. The east pavilion has five bays on floors 2 through 6. In each bay there are vertical bands of windows with four glazed panels over a masonite spandrel, with the lowest panel an operable hopper window. The easternmost bay is switched with spandrel over the four panels. The first floor of the east pavilion hosts the primary entrance, and going from east to west a large concrete panel, a Chicago style window with a fixed center pane flanked by five-panel sidelights, a large brick panel flanked by five-panel windows and double metal-frame glazed doors with sidelights.

The center pavilion projects slightly. There are five bays on floors 1 through 6 with vertical bands of windows in the configuration described above.

The west pavilion has four bays of vertical windows on floors 1 through 6. The first floor has a single metal-framed door with a transom and sidelights at the top of a handicapped ramp.

The east and west elevations are identical with brick panels flanking a vertical band of two-panel windows over a louvered vent. There is a metal door on the first floor.

The north façade has thirteen bays on floors 2 through 6, with windows as described above. To the east on the first floor, there is a metal door, a window, double metal doors, a window and double metal-frame glazed doors with a transom and sidelights at the top of a concrete landing. Toward the west there are eight bays with windows as previously described.

[Photo 0020]

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**17. Kennard-Washington Hall**      C    1939    Colonial Revival      Shaw &  
Woleben

Kennard-Washington Hall, built in 1939 as a WPA project, and originally housing the library, is located east of the Administration Building. With Southern Hall and Hattiesburg Hall, it encloses a large landscaped courtyard. The two-story brick building has a hipped roof with a balustraded widow's walk. The building was originally cross-shaped, but the northeast quadrant was infilled with a one-story brick addition.

The primary façade faces west and the entrance lines up on an axis with the Administration Building. The façade is highly symmetrical and features two wings slightly set back from a central pavilion, each with brick quoins. Each pavilion is four bays wide with a broad cornice and modillions. The metal windows on the first floor have six horizontal panels while the second floor windows have five panels, with the bottom panel an operable hopper window. The windows are distributed as S, D, D, D. All windows have concrete keystones and sills. A concrete watertable extends across the elevation.

The center pavilion projects slightly and features brick quoins and a triangular pediment with an intersecting gable roof. The pediment has a broad raking cornice with modillions and a central oculus. The words "Kennard-Washington" run across the architrave in raised letters. The pediment is supported by four tapered columns on pedestals with Doric capitals. A row of windows runs across the second floor in an S, D, S, D configuration while the first floor a door flanked by single and double windows on both sides. The single and double windows are separated by pilasters. The double metal-frame doors under a transom are surrounded by a broken pediment.

The south façade features three pavilions. The south elevation of the slightly projecting west entrance pavilion has single windows on both floors. The center pavilion has brick quoins, broad cornice, concrete watertable, a hipped roof with eyebrow vent and three double windows on each floor. The east pavilion has a gable roof but the cornice continues. There are seven vertical ribbon windows, with the first floor windows having six panels and the second floor windows having five panels. An enclosed stairwell extends from the junction of the central and east pavilions with a single window on each floor

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The east façade also features three pavilions. The south pavilion is four bays with windows on both floors: S, D, D, D. The enclosed stairwell also has quoins and a single window on the second floor and a single metal-frame glazed door with transom and right sidelight. The gable front of the center pavilion has a pediment formed by the broad cornice, but faced with brick. There is a central louvered vent. There are five rows of vertical ribbon windows. Brick quoins decorate the corners. To the north there is a one story flat-roof brick pavilion, slightly set back from the central pavilion. The wing has no cornice and no quoins. There is one metal door and three small three panel metal windows on each floor.

The north façade has three pavilions, with the flat roof brick addition sitting to the east. It has five three-light metal windows with brick lintels. The center pavilion again features brick quoins, the wide cornice and three double windows in the same configuration seen on the south façade. The hip roof has one eyebrow vent. There is one single window on each floor in the north face of the slightly projecting entrance pavilion.

Upon entering the front doors there is a small lobby. A marble lintel over double wood doors is incised with the word "Library." The doors open to a full two-story rotunda with a dome featuring an oculus. The rotunda is supported by four free-standing two-story columns with Corinthian capitals and four half-columns. A winding stair on both the south and north rises to the second floor and features a decorative brass and iron rail, which is repeated around the second floor of the rotunda. Interior doors are mostly wood, some six panel, some half glazed. All doors have dark stained wood surrounds in a Greek motif. Walls are plaster and the floor appeared to be linoleum.

**18. Lake Byron** C 1934

Built as a class project by the Class of 1934, Lake Byron was the result of campus beautification efforts initiated by President Claude Bennett. The lake was named for Byron Green, President of the Forrest County Board of Supervisors, who secured federal relief funds to finance the construction.

[Photo 0027]

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19. **Marsh Hall** C 1954 International Style Landry & Matthes

Marsh Hall, built in 1954, is a three story brick with reinforced concrete building with a flat roof located just east of the Mannoni Performing Arts Center, between Southern Drive and Hardy Street. The building is rectangular with a projecting entrance on the north. On the south façade, a glass walled lobby connects the classroom building to an auditorium. Both structures are primarily faced in brick with cast concrete details.

Each brick section (bay) features a ribbon window with four vertical lights. The two outermost lights are horizontally divided on the second floor only. The first floor of the building is partially below grade and has a stucco finish. The windows on the first floor are placed at the top of each bay.

A one-story addition exists to the northwest of the classroom building and is connected by a single story hyphen. The addition exhibits a sloped flat roof and east and west walls that are clad in quarry stone. The primary (north) façade of the addition has a solid band of windows stretching the length of the building. The windows alternate in a solid pane/3-light awning/solid pane configuration. The porch on the west façade is poured concrete with some brick around the side entrance doors. There is also a small one-story addition to the southwest of the classroom building. This addition has a flat roof, brick exterior walls and a corner entrance to the southwest.

The south façade of the classroom building is covered in metal screening on the second and third floors, only. The metal screening, a punched triangle pattern, is likely to be a later addition.

The connector hyphen leading from the classroom to the auditorium features tiled floors and a plastered ceiling with a round coffered inset in the center to allow for a circa 1960s chandelier. The entranceway into the classroom building is wood paneled with a central stairway made up of terrazzo treads.

[Photo 0008]

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**20. McCain Library and Archives NC 1976 Biggs & Weir**

McCain and Archives is a three story reinforced concrete building with a flat roof. Occupying a roughly square footprint, the upper floors extend beyond the first floor and are supported by concrete pillars on all four sides. The exterior walls of the first floor are brick with large windows while the upper floors are concrete with small windows.

The north and south elevations are similar. The entire building sits on a pedestal with ramps and stairs rising to a plaza level. Centered on the first floor wall is the entrance which consists of fully glazed metal-framed sliding doors with two panel sidelights and a single light transom. There are no other openings on the first floor. The upper two floors have small fixed rectangular windows grouped in five sets of four windows.

The east and west elevations are similar. A walkway is located on the east side while a loading dock is located to the west. The walls of the first floor are multiple-panel fixed windows. There are no openings on the upper two floors.

[Photo 0022]

**21. McLemore Hall C 1954 Landry & Matthes**

Built in 1954 as the Student activities Center, McLemore Hall is a three story brick building with in rectangular shape. A one story wing wraps around the south and east side of the building and a one story addition was constructed along the north side.

The primary façade faces south toward Hardy Street and over looks Lake Byron. To the west is a three story enclosed stairwell, slightly set back from the front wall. The walls are metal clad glass panels, with three single metal frame glass doors entering on the first floor. The stairs have floating treads.

The primary façade of the three story brick wing is covered with green tiles under three-panel metal-frame windows on the first floor, while the upper floors are brick. There are seven bays of four-panel metal frame windows with operable hopper windows on the second and third floors. The entrance is offset to the west. A large single panel glass window lights an interior stairwell on each floor. Two-double metal-frame glass doors with sidelights and transoms provide access to the first floor lobby. There are lobbies on the second and third floor lit by four-panel metal windows but those windows are behind



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an architectural screen composed of thirty-three vertical metal beams, set about twelve inches apart.

Toward the east end of the building, a one-story flat roof pavilion projects from the façade and wraps around the east face of the building. This pavilion is clad in green tiles with three-panel windows on the east front, and tile panels with no windows on the south front.

The one-story tile covered pavilion wraps around the east façade. There are seven bays separated by concrete pilasters. The first three bays are similar to those on the east face, with green ceramic tile panels under three-panel horizontal metal windows. The fourth bay is composed entirely of metal clad windows, while the fifth bay is the entrance with three three-panel windows flanking double frame doors with transoms and sidelights. There is metal fire escape accessed by double metal doors on the second and third floors of the brick wing.

The one story pavilion wraps around the north face of the three-story wing. There are three bays with green tile panels and double metal doors. The second and third floors have nine bays of four-panel windows in the same configuration as windows on the south pavilion. A one-story brick addition with no openings extends along the north façade. A single metal-frame glazed door provides access on the west face.

[Photo 0012]

**22. Mississippi Hall C 1914 Colonial Revival R.H. Hunt**

Mississippi Hall is a three-story brick building with a hipped roof and three dormers. A wide cornice with dentils is seen on all elevations. The primary façade is south and features a five bay two-story portico with simple Doric columns. Four bay wings flank the central portico. Paired windows are double-hung 4/4 lights in wood sashes. The south elevation features an ornate frontispiece with a single wood door with a glazed panel set between pilasters that separate it from three-panel sidelights over single wood panels. A three-light-transom is set in a segmental brick arch with limestone keystone.

The west elevation has a three bay two-story portico with simple Doric columns. A single wood glazed door with thin six-light sidelights and a 5/5 transom is flanked by paired

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windows. Windows on the second and third floor are D, D, D, with the center windows being wider.

The north elevation has a one-story three bay porch with square columns. The door is a single wood glazed door with three-light sidelights and three-light transom. The east elevation has a one story porch, possibly a more recent addition that connects to Hickman Hall. Windows are paired four-light wood double-hung, all with limestone keystones.

[Photo 0016]

**23. President's House**      C      1912      Colonial Revival      R.H. Hunt

The President's House, now the Ogletree Alumni House, is a two-story Colonial Revival residence. The brick, five-bay house has a hip roof with a projecting pedimented portico, brick quoins and an ornamental cornice with dentils. The fenestration consists of 1/1 double hung windows with float brick arches of gauged voussoirs with limestone keystones. The central second floor window has sidelights.

The entrance is a projecting two-story one bay pedimented portico with paired Ionic columns. A large porch supported by simple Doric columns wraps around the east and south sides of the house. The entrance is a stile and rail, half-glass door, with eight-light sidelights surmounted by two-light transoms. An oblong oval transom composed of a four-light opening with a two-light opening on each side surmounts the entrance and sidelights. This transom has a depressed three-centered brick arch with a limestone keystone.

[Photo 0014]

**24. Printing Center**      C      1949      Harry M. Thomas

Built in 1949 as the Physical Plant Building, the Print Center is a two-story frame building with brick veneer. The building is T-shaped with a hipped roof. The east wing, forming the base of the T, has a center single-leaf metal door under a cantilevered canopy. The door is flanked by paired windows. All windows in the building are 4/4 double-hung replacements. A single window on the second floor is flanked by paired windows. A small addition, offset to the south, has a single-leaf metal door and a single window on the first floor, with a paired window on the second floor. The east elevation of

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a south facing wing, forming the crossbar of the T, has a single garage door on the first floor with three sets of paired windows on the second floor. The east elevation of the opposing north facing wing, thought to be a later addition, has a single garage door and a single-leaf metal door.

The south elevation of the east wing has no openings. The second floor of the south wing has one set of paired windows offset to the west.

The west elevation, forming the top of the T-shape, has seven bays offset to the south, probably an original section of the building. Four sets of paired windows to the south and two sets of paired windows to the north flank a second floor entry consisting of a single-leaf metal door under a wide canopy supported by curved brackets. The door is reached by metal stairs. Windows on the first floor are single units. The north end of the elevation, thought to be an addition, has no openings.

The north elevation of the east facing wing has six bays consisting of paired and single windows.

**25. Power Plant**      C      1936

E. C. Hearon & Sons

The Power Plant is a two-story brick building with a rectangular footprint. A tall brick chimney is adjacent to the building. The primary elevation is north with central double-leaf half-glazed doors under a tall arched industrial window with a concrete keystone. The entry is flanked by two- two-story arched industrial windows with fixed panels. The windows are separated by brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals. A concrete belt course runs above the pilasters with decorative concrete blocks forming pyramids. A capstone extends around the entire building.

The east elevation has five bays, similar to the south elevation. The major difference is that the double-leaf doors, now fixed, are in the second bay from the south rather than in the central bay.

A one-story wing with a central metal replacement door is adjacent to the two-story structure. Two windows have been infilled with brick while a three-panel fixed window has been added. A single leaf metal door, offset to the west, is accessed by metal stairs.

The west elevation is dominated by the free-standing chimney. The chimney is flanked by one bay to the north and two bays to the south. The bays are divided by brick pilasters

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with the same decorative elements seen on the south elevation. The north bay and south bay have two-story arched windows. The bay nearest the chimney has a double-leaf metal frame doors with glazed panels under an arched window.

[Photo 0009]

**26. Pulley Residence Hall** NC 1962

William R. Allen

Pulley Residence Hall is a six-story brick clad building with a flat roof. It is rectangular in shape on an east-west axis and, with Bolton Hall and Jones Hall, forms the Freshman Quad.

The north façade (primary) faces the Freshman Quad. There are three main pavilions. The east pavilion has five bays. On the first floor there is a single metal door to the east. Six steps lead up to a concrete landing which has large double five-panel metal frame fixed windows. Double metal-frame glass doors under a transom provide the main entrance to a large lobby. Adjacent to the doors to the west are two brick panels under fixed metal-frame windows.

Floors two-six have vertical bands of windows divided by brick panels. Most windows are two metal-frame fixed panels over an operable hopper window with a blue-green spandrel below. The windows on the stairwells are flipped, with the spandrel over the window unit.

The central pavilion projects slightly from the east and west pavilions and consists of five bays with the window over spandrel configuration described above. The west pavilion is four bays with the same window configuration.

The east and west facades are identical with brick panels flanking a band of vertical metal framer windows with the spandrel over an operable hopper over a fixed panel.

The south façade has thirteen bays on floors two-six, with the same window configuration as the north façade. There are nine bays on the first floor west to east. A single metal-frame glazed door with a transom and sidelight is at the top of a handicapped ramp. To the east, three steps rises to a concrete landing with double metal-frame glazed doors with a transom. To the east are triple five panel metal frame fixed windows.

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**27. Stout Hall** NC 1966 David K. Hemeter

Stout Hall is a one story concrete building with a flat roof. The building has a diamond-shaped footprint with staggered exterior walls. The north and south elevations are similar. The entrances are centered with brick walls. There are two sets of double-leaf glazed doors with sidelights and a three-light transom. Flanking the entry is a series of concrete panels that are set back in a staggered pattern. There are no windows.

The east and west facades are similar. There is a central concrete panel flanked by three receding doorways. The nearest doors are double-leaf metal doors, while the other doors are single leaf metal doors. A covered walkway connects to College Hall to the south.

The interior has two large auditorium-style classrooms.

**28. Southern Hall** C 1922 Colonial Revival R.H. Hunt

Southern Hall is a three-story, Colonial revival institutional building with a partial basement. This brick, 15 bay structure has a hip roof with projecting gabled pavilions flanking the entrance portico. There pavilions have brick quoins and an attic air-intake with four keystones. The fenestration consists of single or paired four-light aluminum awning windows with brick flat arches of gauged voussoirs with limestone keystones. Some of the window openings have been infilled with brick. The clay-tile roof has a simple wood cornice with dentils.

The south entrance is a projecting two-story, seven-bay portico with simple Doric columns. The portico has a more elaborate cornice and large dentils. The first floor windows once had semi-circular transoms, but those have been infilled with brick. The semi-circular openings have brick arches with radiating voussoirs and a limestone keystone.

**29. Textbook Center** C 1934/1987

Originally the Demonstration School gymnasium, the Textbook Center is a two-story brick building with a gable roof. The primary elevation is south where there is a two-story wing with a shed roof. Double-leaf glazed doors are recessed in a brick arched opening with a concrete keystone. Above the arch, a concrete frieze contains the words

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“University Textbook Center.” The frieze is capped with a triangular pediment. The entry is flanked by two fixed replacement windows on both floors.

The west façade is ten bays with eight large fixed windows and two smaller windows. The east façade is similar except wood shingles have been added to the large windows that overlook a courtyard. These are thought to be a recent addition.

The north façade has a gable over a hipped roof. The gable has a louvered vent. The first floor has nine bays with four small fixed windows flanking double-leaf metal doors. The second floor has seven larger rectangular windows.

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Forrest, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.
- 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**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1912-1959

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

R. H. Hunt; Vinson B. Smith, Jr.; N.W. Overstreet;  
Landry & Matthes

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance runs from the date the school opened to fifty years before the nomination.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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**Danforth Chapel is used by the University community for religious services but derives significance for non-sectarian reasons.**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See Continuation sheets

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See Continuation sheets

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets



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**Statement of Significance**

The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for statewide significance under Criteria A for its association with Education. The school is the first public college founded to train teachers for the elementary and secondary public schools in Mississippi. The district is eligible for listing for local significance under Criteria C for Architecture. R. H. Hunt, a prominent southeastern American architect, is responsible for the original campus plan, still reflected in the district. The district contains notable examples of institutional buildings designed in a variety of popular styles in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**EDUCATION**

**Mississippi Normal College**

Created by an act of the Mississippi Legislature in March 1910, the Mississippi Normal College (Now The University of Southern Mississippi) was the first state-sponsored institution of higher learning specifically tasked with training teachers for Mississippi's public schools. Over the course of the post-war era, public education became widely accepted in the state. However, almost all schools, both for white and black students, were in rural areas, mostly in one-teacher schools.<sup>1</sup> Standards for teachers were low, requiring candidates to only to pass a test for licensure. The negative effects of short school terms were enhanced by the transience of the teachers, with more than six in ten teachers moving annually.<sup>2</sup>

However, as early as 1867, an association of state teachers petitioned the legislature to create a school to train teachers<sup>3</sup>. Despite defeat after defeat, the teachers association continued to work toward the goal. Although a normal college bill was finally introduced in 1906, it never made it out of the House Education committee.<sup>4</sup> By 1910, the proponents of a normal college had an ally in Governor Edmund P. Noel. Although opponents were able to strike any state appropriations from the bill, it passed both houses

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<sup>1</sup> Alma Hickman. *Southern As I Saw It, Personal Remembrances of an Era, 1912-1954*. (Hattiesburg, MS: University of Southern Mississippi Press, 1966), 11.

<sup>2</sup> Chester Morgan. *Dearly Bought, Deeply Treasured: The University of Southern Mississippi, 1912-1987*. (Jackson and London: The University Press of Mississippi, 1987), 3.

<sup>3</sup> Hickman, 2.

<sup>4</sup> Morgan, 1906.

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and Governor Noel signed the bill on March 30, 1910, formally creating the Mississippi Normal College.<sup>5</sup>

Since the legislature would not appropriate any state money for the school, they did allow counties and municipalities to issue bonds and to make other contributions toward "procuring the establishment and location of the Mississippi Normal College."<sup>6</sup> Three communities made bids for the school: Jackson and Hinds County, Laurel and Jones County and Hattiesburg and Forrest County.

Hattiesburg was a boom town, based on the yellow-pine timber industry and the conjunction of four major railroads. Three citizens, Dr. T.E. Ross, Mr. A.A. Montague and Mr. H.H. Camp, donated 200 acres for the school. The Newman Lumber Company donated an additional 640 acres. With the donations of land and \$250,000, and agreements to extend the city streetcar line to the college and allow the college to access city utilities, the Hattiesburg site was accepted by the board of trustees on September 16, 1910.<sup>7</sup>

The Board of Trustees selected Chattanooga architect R.H. Hunt to prepare a master plan. Hunt devised a plan based on two major axes. A north-south axis would extend from the streetcar station on Hardy Station. An east-west axis intersected at a domed administration building, the focal point of the plan. Circular drives extended around a green space south of the administration building while wide boulevards flanked a grove of trees north of the administration building which was be flanked by four academic buildings. Hunt also planned a secondary area of faculty housing east of the central campus.<sup>8</sup> Landscape architect George Kessler contributed to the plan. Although the Board of Trustees generally approved the plans, they authorized only the construction of five buildings. Hunt designed the buildings in the Colonial Revival style with red brick and stone trim. The buildings authorized were College Hall (Inv. 5), planned to house administrative offices, classrooms, a library and a large auditorium on the third floor; Hattiesburg Hall (Inv. 12), a three-story dormitory for women; Forrest County Hall (Inv. 10), a nearly identical dormitory for men; a two-story President's House (Inv. 23); and an

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<sup>5</sup> Hickman, 15.

<sup>6</sup> Morgan, 4.

<sup>7</sup> Hickman, 18; Morgan, 4, 6.

<sup>8</sup> Morgan, 6.

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Industrial Cottage (Inv. 15) for training women in domestic arts. The board contracted with Jackson contractor I. C. Garber to construct all five buildings.<sup>9</sup>

As the physical campus came together, the Board of Trustees set out to staff the college. After their first choice for President, Rural Schools Supervisor W. H. Smith, resigned the appointment, the Board offered the position to Joe Cook, the Superintendent of the Columbus Schools. Cook had long been an advocate for a normal college and worked with Board members and other appointees to design a program of progressive teacher training. Board member Henry Whitfield, President of Industrial Institute and College (now Mississippi University for Women) and later Governor of Mississippi, suggested that public education should be practical, professional and democratic and that public schools should take "children with their native endowments and their preschool experiences [and] grow them into men and women who can perform the functions of life in a Christian civilization."<sup>10</sup> Whitfield concluded that the purpose of the normal school was to give teachers the "vision, training, energy and self-sacrificing spirit" required to accomplish such goals.<sup>11</sup>

Since the law creating the school established as the minimum requirement for admission the completion of the eighth grade, the early curriculum of the college included both high school and college level work. The college offered a two-year program that qualified the candidate for a five-year license, and a four-year diploma program which permitted a life-time license. The curriculum emphasized that all classwork should be correlated with public school practice and included courses in English, mathematics, history, the sciences, agriculture and manual training for men and domestic science for women. Professional education classes included theory and practice of teaching, curriculum development and practical classroom observation and student teaching. Music and French, Spanish and German were electives.<sup>12</sup>

Opening ceremonies were held on September 18, 1912, with classes starting on September 20. The enrollment was 227, with seventeen faculty members. Students unable to pay tuition could get jobs on the campus for 15 cents an hour, including digging stumps on the uncompleted campus.<sup>13</sup> J. B. George, who was later to be named President

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<sup>9</sup> Morgan, 6.

<sup>10</sup> Morgan, 8.

<sup>11</sup> Morgan, 8.

<sup>12</sup> Morgan, 10-13.

<sup>13</sup> "USM: A competitive multi-purpose university," *Meridian (MS) Star*, March 29, 1985.

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of the college, worked digging stumps during his sophomore year in 1915.<sup>14</sup> Student life was strictly regulated. Although social life between male and female students was encouraged, social hours were restricted to one-half hour in the evening between dinner and 6:30pm and 2:00pm to 5:30 pm on Sunday afternoons. Students were not permitted to leave campus without permission and women students were not allowed to ride in automobiles with anyone other than their fathers. Regular study hours were prescribed.<sup>15</sup>

A wide variety of student activities and clubs occupied the students, including literary societies, debate team, glee club, and a drama club. Basketball was an outdoor sport until the gymnasium at the Demonstration School was built in 1934.<sup>16</sup>

The Legislature appropriated funds for the operation of the college in 1912. In 1914, state appropriations were used to construct a much-needed dormitory for women, Mississippi Hall (Inv. 22). A new laundry building, which later became the Industrial Arts and ROTC Building, was constructed in 1918.<sup>17</sup>

American involvement in the First World War caused a drop in enrollment for the first time since the college opened. However, the post-war enrollment soared taxing the college's facilities. In 1919, the Legislature appropriated funds for a new Science Hall (now Southern Hall) (Inv. 28), which was completed in 1921. In 1920, College Secretary A. V. Hayes proposed construction of a streetcar station as a memorial to faculty and students killed in the Great War.<sup>18</sup>

Although the stated purpose for the college in its enabling legislation was to prepare students to teach in Mississippi's public schools, the Mississippi Normal College was the only public institution of higher learning for white students in the southern two-thirds of the state. As more students seeking a general education enrolled at the college, the mission of the school gradually began to change. A major step toward status as a comprehensive university came in 1922 when the Legislature authorized the school to grant the Bachelor of Science degree. The first student to receive the degree was Kathryn Swetman of Biloxi.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Yvonne Arnold, "History of Southern Mississippi University," *Special Collections*, [www.lib.usm.edu/spcoll/collections/uarchives/umhist.html](http://www.lib.usm.edu/spcoll/collections/uarchives/umhist.html), 2.

<sup>15</sup> Hickman, 42-45.

<sup>16</sup> Morgan, 25-31.

<sup>17</sup> Morgan, 18.

<sup>18</sup> Morgan, 34.

<sup>19</sup> Morgan, 35.

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**Mississippi State Teachers College**

In recognition of the expanded mission, the Legislature renamed the school the Mississippi State Teachers College (MSTC) in 1924. President Joe Cook, in an effort to achieve accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, put into effect several recommendations of a special commission led by Dr. McMurray. All faculty members were encouraged to obtain a master's degree and by 1928 only faculty members holding doctorates could be appointed as department heads.<sup>20</sup> The curriculum was revised into certificate, diploma, and degree programs. To obtain a degree students had to complete 32 hours in education, 20 in English, 12 in each a foreign language, history and science. Perhaps the greatest achievement was the construction of a Demonstration School in 1927.<sup>21</sup>

Joe Cook led the college as President during the years 1912 to 1928. Over 10,000 students enrolled in the school in that period. Despite his many accomplishments, Joe Cook was fired by Governor Theodore Bilbo in 1928. Bilbo, in an effort to control higher education in the state, proposed to move The University of Mississippi to Jackson and consolidate the institutions of higher learning. Although Bilbo's plan was defeated, Bilbo sought to remove college administrators and Board members who opposed his plans. He was able to take control of the Board of Trustees and persuade them to appoint new presidents at The University of Mississippi, Mississippi A&M (now Mississippi State), as well as the State Teachers College.<sup>22</sup>

Claude A. Bennett, Supervisor of Rural Schools, succeeded Cook as President. Although seen as a Bilbo supporter, Bennett oversaw an expansion of the physical plant that was unprecedented in the school's history. He also achieved accreditation for the school in 1929. However, due to Bilbo's continuing interference in higher education, the accreditation was suspended in 1930.<sup>23</sup>

Despite his attempts to purge the leadership of Mississippi's colleges, Governor Theodore Bilbo did persuade the Legislature to appropriate significant funds for

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<sup>20</sup> Hickman, 69.

<sup>21</sup> Morgan, 45.

<sup>22</sup> Richard A. McLemore, "Higher Education in the Twentieth Century," in *A History of Mississippi*, vol. II, Richard A. McLemore, ed. (Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973), 428-431.

<sup>23</sup> Arnold, 2.

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improvements at the physical plants of the state's colleges.<sup>24</sup> State funds were used to complete the Demonstration School (Inv. 8), construct an auditorium (Inv. 3) (later named Bennett Hall), a new dining hall (Inv. 9) (now the Hub), and a home science nursery school (Inv. 11) (later named for faculty member Bertha Fritzche). Bennett's association with Governor Bilbo did have positive effects on construction at MSTC.<sup>25</sup>

In addition to the new construction, Bennett also enacted a campus beautification program. He hired Albert Leggett, a horticulturist, to design a landscape plan for the campus. The plan emphasized flowering shrubs and legustrums, still seen on the campus today. A sunken garden was designed by O.V. Austin of the science department. A small lake (Inv. 18) was built with WPA funds and named in honor of Dr. Byron Greene, president of the Forrest County Board of Supervisors. Industrial arts students designed a built a bridge for the lake.<sup>26</sup>

Under President Bennett's tenure, the Legislature authorized the school to award degrees in music. Bennett recruited Frank E. Marsh, Jr., to head the music department, a position he would hold until 1961.<sup>27</sup>

After the turmoil of the Bilbo administration, a Legislature formed a new Board of Trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning in 1933. The new Board sought to eliminate politics from the higher education. One of their first actions was to remove Claude Bennett as President at MSTC.<sup>28</sup>

Jennings Burton (J.B.) George became President of MSTC on July 1, 1933. George, the first president to hold a doctorate, immediately reorganized the administration of the college into seven divisions: health, language and literature, music, natural sciences and mathematics, practical and fine arts, professional arts, and social studies.<sup>29</sup> The curriculum continued to expand beyond courses preparing students for teaching careers, so that by 1938 the school offered pre-professional training in dentistry, medicine, law, pharmacy, and engineering. In his history of The University, Chester Morgan noted that "by 1940 demographic changes were already affecting STC. For South Mississippi's

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<sup>24</sup> McLemore, 429.

<sup>25</sup> Morgan, 49.

<sup>26</sup> Hickman, 88.

<sup>27</sup> Morgan, 54.

<sup>28</sup> Morgan, 54.

<sup>29</sup> Morgan, 55.

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growing population it was becoming the logical place to pursue higher education.” The school began granting bachelor of arts degrees in 1939.<sup>30</sup>

Despite a small annual decline in the first years of the Depression, the enrollment grew throughout the 1930s peaking in 1939. Although President George sought to invigorate some of the restrictions on student life that had eased over time, he still supported converting the old laundry building into a student social center in 1933. The school began to reflect a typical four-year university with broader choices for social activities, a student-run newspaper, intercollegiate athletics and Greek-letter social organizations. George even relaxed a ban on dancing on the campus in 1940.<sup>31</sup>

The last building constructed on the MSTC campus before World War II was a new library (Inv. 17) (now Kennard-Washington Hall), completed with 1939 with PWA funds. The new facility housed 22,500 volumes and offered four reading rooms centered on a large rotunda with a lighted dome.

As the school’s mission continue to evolve away from its original purpose of a normal school, college administrators and local political and business leaders began to lobby the Legislature for a name that more properly reflected its role. President George reported to a legislator that the school was the only “senior college in the southern two-thirds of the state. This being true, we have a great part of the state to serve.”<sup>32</sup> The efforts were rewarded in February 1940 when the Legislature voted to change the name of the institution to Mississippi Southern College.

### **Mississippi Southern College**

The Second World War caused enrollment at Mississippi Southern College (MSC) to drop as most male students and many faculty joined the military. The enrollment reached 300 students at its lowest point.<sup>33</sup> The first MSC graduate killed in the war was Air Force Lt. Andrew Webb, who died at Pearl Harbor.<sup>34</sup> President George planned for an

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<sup>30</sup> Morgan, 68.

<sup>31</sup> Morgan, 55-63.

<sup>32</sup> Morgan, 68.

<sup>33</sup> “History,” *University of Southern Mississippi*, [www.usm.edu/facts/history.php](http://www.usm.edu/facts/history.php).

<sup>34</sup> Arnold, 4.

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anticipated post-war expansion, establishing a trust fund to provide scholarships for returning veterans and graduate programs in education, home economics and music.<sup>35</sup>

However, when George's term expired in 1945, the Board of Trustees elected not to extend his tenure. The Board appointed Dr. Robert Cook (no relation to Joe Cook), former dean of the education school at The University of Mississippi and superintendent of Mississippi public schools. Cook launched a concerted effort to promote the school and establish it as one of the leaders in higher education in Mississippi. He hoped to increase enrollment by pursuing excellence in three areas: academics, athletics and social life.

With the large number of veterans returning to school, the male student population outnumbered women for the first time in history. To accommodate this demographic change, Cook instituted new academic programs that appealed to men. In 1946, business education and commerce became a separate division and began the transformation to a true business school.<sup>36</sup> New majors were offered in business education, marketing and merchandising, business administration, secretarial studies and economics<sup>37</sup>.

Perhaps the biggest change in the school's academic program came when the Legislature amended the statute creating the school to authorize MSC "to make training of teachers the principal object instead of the sole object."<sup>38</sup> The Board of Trustees authorized MSC to confer a Master of Science degree in education.<sup>39</sup>

Cook oversaw the creation of three new research and service centers during his presidency. The Reading Clinic, established in 1946, brought together teachers, clinicians and researchers in the field of reading. The Latin American Institute offered intensive language instruction to encourage foreign students to attend the college. The Speech and Hearing Clinic opened in 1949 offering clinical services for speech and hearing disorders.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> History.

<sup>36</sup> Morgan, 79.

<sup>37</sup> Hickman, 121.

<sup>38</sup> Morgan, 79.

<sup>39</sup> Hickman, 123.

<sup>40</sup> Morgan, 80-82.



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Cook understood the need to make MSC “socially acceptable” to encourage more students to attend the school. He was an advocate of “good wholesome entertainment...dances, parties and social activities”.<sup>41</sup> Greek organizations were welcomed, with Cook allowing Alpha Tau Omega to renovate the college barn into the first fraternity house on campus.<sup>42</sup>

Another area that Cook promoted was intercollegiate athletics. Working with athletic director Reed Green and football coach “Pie” Vann, MSC established a national reputation in football. With back-to-back victories over national powerhouse Alabama, MSC made its mark on the national scene.<sup>43</sup> The basketball program also became respectable after the school hired Lee Floyd as the first full-time basketball coach and began awarding scholarships in 1949.<sup>44</sup>

One of Cook’s biggest challenges was expanding the campus plant to accommodate the huge growth in the student population. Cook obtained two pre-fabricated structures from Camp Shelby to house married students and faculty. He also obtained twenty-two trailer units from the National Housing Agency to serve as temporary housing.<sup>45</sup> In addition to these temporary buildings, Cook oversaw construction of three new dormitories, Weathersby Hall (1946), Hickman Hall (Inv. 13) (1951) and Bolton Hall (Inv. 4) (1954). Academic buildings for ROTC and home economics were expanded. A new physical education building for women (Inv. 14) was completed in 1949.

Cook’s efforts to construct a new music building were initially rebuffed by Governor Hugh White, who did not believe the Legislature would authorize money for a “group of fiddlers.”<sup>46</sup> Undeterred, Cook invited the legislators to a banquet at the Hotel Heidelberg in Jackson. Following performances by the orchestra, choirs, notable athletes and the Dixie Darlings, a precision dance team, the Legislature committed \$450,000 to the project.<sup>47</sup> The new music building, named Marsh Hall (Inv. 19) was completed in 1954.

Two other campus buildings were financed through Cook’s extraordinary efforts. Believing that a social-religious student center was a key to his efforts to entice more

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<sup>41</sup> Morgan, 77.

<sup>42</sup> Morgan, 84.

<sup>43</sup> Morgan, 93.

<sup>44</sup> Morgan, 95.

<sup>45</sup> Morgan, 79.

<sup>46</sup> Morgan, 90.

<sup>47</sup> Morgan, 90-91.

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students to MSC, Cook sought funding from the Legislature. When it became clear no public money would be appropriated Cook began to raise funds privately. After collecting \$470,000 he was still far from the goal. Cook persuaded to the Forrest County Board of Supervisors to approve a \$200,000 bond issue. The student center (Inv. 21) (now McLemore Hall) was completed in 1956 and named in honor of Cook.<sup>48</sup>

A campus chapel had been planned for many years. In 1953, Cook met an employee of Ralston-Purina Company who was visiting the campus. The man told Cook of a foundation sponsored by Ralston president William Danforth which helped colleges build chapels. Cook flew to St. Louis to meet with Danforth who pledged \$10,000. The campus Student Christian Fund raised an additional \$20,000 through blood drives, bazaars and other fund raising. The Danforth Chapel (Inv. 7) opened in 1957.<sup>49</sup>

Alma Hickman, a member of the original Mississippi Normal School faculty in 1912, wrote of R.C. Cook: "he found a small college and left it a much larger one...he greatly enlarged and improved the faculty and the academic standards [and] left the institution well on its way to university status."<sup>50</sup>

Cook surprised the college community when he announced his resignation in 1954. Professor Robert McLemore became interim president. Before the Board could make a permanent appointment, Cook sought to return to the position. With the Board split between supporters of McLemore and Cook, they compromised and name state archivist William D. McCain president in May 1955.<sup>51</sup>

One of McCain's first actions as president was to suggest a reorganization of the curriculum. As McCain later wrote, "there was no hope that Mississippi Southern College could ever achieve university status without first being given a university structure."<sup>52</sup> Although the Board of Trustees initially rejected the plan, by 1957 they relented and authorized the college "to reorganize administration of instruction so as to provide for a Dean of the College and Graduate School of Education, a Dean of Arts and Sciences, a Dean of Education and Psychology, a Dean of Commerce and Business Administration..." with divisions of fine arts and home economics. In 1958, the Board

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<sup>48</sup> Hickman, 131; Morgan, 96.

<sup>49</sup> Morgan, 96.

<sup>50</sup> Hickman, 131,

<sup>51</sup> Morgan, 97.

<sup>52</sup> Morgan, 99.

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authorized the college to apply for federal grants to fund doctoral programs in education and marine sciences.<sup>53</sup>

The McCain administration instituted some changes in social life on the campus. For the first time in the school's history, chapel was abolished.<sup>54</sup> Athletics continued to prosper with the football team's first undefeated season.<sup>55</sup>

One of the school's most pressing needs was for more dormitory space. As enrollment approached 3000, there was no room for more than 500 students who applied for campus housing. McCain obtained federal loans and matching grants to fund the construction of five new dormitories: Jones Hall (Inv. 16) (1959) and Pulley Hall (Inv. 26) (1962) for women, Scott Hall (1959) and Bond Hall (1962) for men, and Pinehaven Apartments for married students (1960). Academic buildings completed during McCain's tenure included the new Cook Library (Inv. 6) (1960) and a new science building (1959). The science building replaced the Science Annex completed in 1950 which had to be demolished since it had been "constructed with little consideration of soil conditions."<sup>56</sup>

From its inception as the Mississippi Normal College through its designation as The University of Southern Mississippi in 1962, the school was segregated and open only to white students. The first black Mississippian to apply to then MSC was Clyde Kennard. In his history of the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi, John Dittmer states, "the case of Clyde Kennard, was, in many respects, the most tragic of the decade."<sup>57</sup> Kennard was a native of Forrest County, MS. After completing his service in the U.S. Army, Kennard enrolled at The University of Chicago. He returned to Mississippi to take over his family farm in Eatonville. Determined to complete his education, Kennard applied for admission to MSC in 1957, 1958, and 1959. After meeting with college President William McCain, Kennard was arrested for possession of alcohol. The charges, later determined to have been "a frame-up,"<sup>58</sup> were only the beginning of Kennard's problems. Kennard was later convicted of receiving stolen chicken feed which resulted in a seven-year sentence served in the penitentiary at Parchman. While incarcerated, Kennard developed leukemia which

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<sup>53</sup> Morgan, 99.

<sup>54</sup> Morgan, 101.

<sup>55</sup> Arnold, 10.

<sup>56</sup> William D. McCain and John Gonzalez. *University of Southern Mississippi History*. Special Collections. McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

<sup>57</sup> John Dittmer, *Local People, The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*. (Urbana and Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 79.

<sup>58</sup> Dittmer, 82.

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was largely untreated until after he was released in 1963. Kennard died in Chicago in 1963. The conviction was finally overturned in Forrest County Circuit Court in 2007.<sup>59</sup> The University of Southern Mississippi was finally desegregated in September 1965 when two African-American students enrolled without incident.

The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District visually represents the establishment of a small state normal school and its growth and development into a comprehensive university. The history of the school is markedly distinct from the histories of Mississippi's other seven public institutions of higher learning. The Mississippi legislature created The University of Mississippi by statute in 1840 and located the college in Oxford. The University- opened in 1848 and considered the "flagship university of the state,"<sup>60</sup> has a long tradition as a liberal arts college, but also was one of the first public universities to offer an engineering education. The University of Mississippi is home to the state's only public law school and medical school.

Mississippi State University, located in Starkville, is a land-grant college established by the legislature in 1878 to offer training in "agriculture, horticulture and the mechanical arts...without excluding other scientific and classical studies, including military tactics."<sup>61</sup> Over the years MSU grew beyond its early mission as an agricultural college and became a comprehensive university conferring doctoral degrees. MSU hosts the state's schools of veterinary medicine and architecture, and in keeping with its heritage, the Mississippi Agricultural Extension Service.

The Mississippi University for Women, located in Columbus, opened in 1884 as the nation's first public university for women. The W, as the college has long been called, offered both industrial training and college instruction. By 1920, the collegiate program replaced vocational training. The school began admitting men in 1982. The school has a tradition of liberal arts education as well as focuses in the field of nursing, education and culinary arts. The core campus was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 as part of the South Columbus Historic District.

Delta State University was created by the Mississippi legislature in 1924 at the request of local officials seeking an institution of higher learning in the Mississippi Delta. Located in Cleveland, the school grew out of an agricultural high school established in 1912.

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<sup>59</sup> "Kennard's Legacy to Be Honored at Symposium." *Hattiesburg American*, September 14, 2009.

<sup>60</sup> "...A Great Public University." *University of Mississippi*. <http://www.olemiss.edu/info/history.html>.

<sup>61</sup> "General Information...The History." *Mississippi State University*. [http://www.msstate.edu/web/gen\\_info.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/web/gen_info.htm)

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District  
Hattiesburg, Forrest Count, Mississippi

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Originally a state teachers' college, like its South Mississippi counterpart, Delta State gradually evolved to meet the regional needs for higher education and achieved university status in 1969.<sup>62</sup>

Mississippi is the home to three public historically black colleges. Alcorn State University, located in Claiborne County, was established in 1871 as Mississippi's first public institution of higher learning for African American students. A land-grant college, Alcorn originally provided training in agriculture and the mechanical arts. Women were admitted in 1895. Alcorn achieved university status in 1974. The University continues to offer degrees in agriculture as well as arts and sciences, business, education and nursing.<sup>63</sup> Nine campus buildings comprise the Alcorn State University Historic District, listed in 1982.

Jackson State University became a public institution in 1940 when the legislature acquired the campus of Jackson College, which ceased operations in 1934. Originally designated as a state teacher's college for African Americans, the curriculum and campus expanded and the school achieved university status in 1974. It was designated "the Urban University of the State of Mississippi" in 1979.<sup>64</sup> The school offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in business, liberal arts, education, public service and engineering.

Mississippi Valley State University was established in 1946 to offer educational opportunities to African Americans in the Mississippi Delta. Located in Itta Bena and originally founded to train teachers for rural schools and to provide vocational education, the school achieved university status in 1974.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District encompasses the historic core of the campus and visually illustrates the evolution of the school from a regional normal school to one of the state's comprehensive universities. The heart of the district contains the first buildings constructed when the school opened in 1912 and reflects the original campus plan executed by Chattanooga architect R.H. Hunt.

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<sup>62</sup> "History of Delta State University." *Delta State University*. <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/1223.asp>

<sup>63</sup> "About Alcorn...History." *Alcorn State University*. <http://www.edu/about/default/.aspx?id=559>.

<sup>64</sup> "About Jackson State...History." *Jackson State University*. [http://promotions.jsums.edu/show\\_aboutjsu.asp?durki=450](http://promotions.jsums.edu/show_aboutjsu.asp?durki=450).

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Hattiesburg, Forrest Count, Mississippi

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Although based in Chattanooga, R.H. Hunt was one of the most prolific architects in the southern United States in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Hunt designed buildings in every state in the South. Over the years he established branch offices in Jackson, Mississippi and Dallas, Texas to oversee his widespread projects. Hunt designed all types of buildings from residences to skyscrapers but concentrated his work on public buildings and churches. In addition to The University of Southern Mississippi buildings, Hunt designed university buildings at Mississippi State University, The University of Mississippi, Mississippi College, the Mississippi University for Women and Millsaps College. Hunt was comfortable working in the popular styles of the day including Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Beaux Arts Classicism, Neo-Classicism, and Colonial Revival.<sup>65</sup>

In one of its first actions, the Board of Trustees of the new Mississippi Normal College retained Hunt to design a plan for the new campus. Chester Morgan, writing the history of the college, stated

Hunt conceived his plan for the campus around two major axes; one extending northward from the streetcar station on Hardy Street to the opposite end of the site, the other running east to west intersecting at the location of the present Administration Building...the focal point of Hunt's plan...bordered by a semi-circular roadway that branched from Hardy Street at the southeast corner of the campus and curved gently toward the rotunda...<sup>66</sup>

Although Hunt's plan was not fully executed, three of the institutional buildings on the plan were constructed in 1912 and completed when the school opened. College Hall (Inv. 5), located to the east of the planned domed administration building, held administrative offices, classroom rooms, the library and a large third floor auditorium. The three story red brick building had white stone accents with restrained Colonial Revival details. The use of steel and concrete structural components was a marked advance over the wood frame construction seen in some of Hunt's earlier Mississippi buildings.

Hunt's plan also called for three pairs of dormitories to flank an open quadrangle to the north of the administration building. Only two of the proposed buildings were completed when the college opened. Forrest County Hall (Inv. 10) to the west of the quadrangle

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<sup>65</sup> "Buildings in Hamilton County Designed by R.H. Hunt-Thematic Group." National Register of Historic Places nomination, August 18, 1980.

<sup>66</sup> Morgan, p.6.

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housed men, while Hattiesburg Hall (Inv. 12) was to the east of the quadrangle and was a women's dormitory. Hunt's plan was more fully realized in 1914 when the Mississippi legislature appropriated state funds for the college for the first time. The college built Mississippi Hall (Inv. 22) to the north of Hattiesburg Hall (Inv. 12). All were three story red brick Colonial Revival buildings with graceful porches.

One other component of Hunt's original plan was a park-like area to the east of the academic and residential buildings. The area was conceived as the setting for faculty houses. Only two of Hunt's structures were built. The Industrial Cottage (Inv. 15) and the President's House (Inv. 23) were both residential scale Colonial Revival structures.

Hunt's final contribution to the architecture of the campus came in 1922 with the completion of Southern Hall (Inv. 28), a three-story red brick classroom building with Colonial Revival details. Southern Hall (Inv. 28), located opposite of College Hall (Inv. 5), provided balance to Hunt's original plan. Although Hunt designed no additional buildings in the district, his overall plan is still reflected in the siting of buildings and roadways on the campus. The classical details he used to decorate the otherwise plain buildings that comprised the early campus, served as the language adopted by later architects.

One of Hunt's most distinguished successors was Vinson B. Smith, Jr. of Gulfport. Smith was a graduate of Tulane University and served as the State Architect of Mississippi from 1928 to 1932. He is responsible for three Beaux Arts buildings that provide a strong visual presence on the campus. The Dining Hall (Inv. 9), located at the north end of the planned quadrangle, is a one-story brick building with extensive Beaux Arts classical detailing, most pronounced in its monumental entrance pavilion.

The Administration Building (Inv. 1), completed in 1929, is the most prominent structure in the historic district. Standing two stories high, with a tall metal dome, the cruciform shape serves as the center point of the cross axes of Hunt's campus plan. Smith captured the essence of Hunt's vision though the exuberant Beaux Arts detailing were not seen in Hunt's concept. The Administration Building (Inv. 1) is the campus icon and is used in many promotional materials.

Smith also designed Bennett Auditorium (Inv. 3), located north of the Administration Building (Inv. 3) and not a feature in Hunt's plan. Although the Mississippi legislature appropriated money for a new women's dormitory, President Claude Bennett believed

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that a facility to replace the third floor auditorium in College Hall (Inv. 5) was a more pressing need. Smith designed the building in the Beaux Arts style that reflected the Administration Building (Inv. 1) to the south and the Dining Hall (Inv. 9) to the north.

Smith's final contribution to the campus was a new building for the home economics department, completed in 1927. Later named Fritzsche-Gibbs Hall (Inv. 11) in honor of two-long time professors, the building was the first permanent building constructed outside the boundaries of Hunt's original campus plan. Although Smith employed the same Colonial Revival detailing as the campus's original buildings, the site of Fritzsche-Gibbs Hall (Inv. 11) marked the beginning of the expansion of the campus to the west and north of the historic core.

Another building of that era, also built in the newer west end of the campus, was the Demonstration School (Inv. 8), designed by renowned Jackson architect N.W. Overstreet, in 1927. Although the Art Deco styling was a deviation from the classical features found on other campus buildings, Overstreet's talent was such that the building did not detract from the overall continuity and integrity.

The final building constructed before World War II was a new library, now Kennard-Washington Hall (Inv. 17), completed in 1939. Gulfport architects Shaw and Woleben returned to classical details for the building that occupied an important place in Hunt's east-west axis to the east of the Administration Building (Inv 1). Although the exterior details were simplified, perhaps cost-saving measure for this PWA-funded building, the interior rotunda remains one of the grandest spaces on the campus.

In the 1950s, Hattiesburg architects Landry & Matthes, were responsible for most of the design work on the campus. Their early efforts honored the Colonial Revival tradition established by Hunt. Both Hickman Hall (Inv. 13), a women's dormitory, and the Women's Physical Education Building (Inv. 14) (now HP&R Building) were completed in 1950 and the dentilled cornices, lintels and keystones, and quoins are all based on classical precedents. However, as the decade advanced, Landry & Matthes introduced the modern idiom, seen in the three dormitories around the Freshman Quad, Bolton Hall (Inv. 4), Jones Hall (Inv. 16) and Pulley Hall (Inv. 26). The International style is best expressed in Marsh Hall (Inv. 19), completed in 1954, and designed by Landry & Matthes.



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The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District documents a unique grouping of buildings constructed between 1912 and the late 1950s. Beginning with a concept created by one of the South's leading architects, a strong current of classical details decorated utilitarian buildings created by a succession of talented Mississippi architects serving the educational mission of the institution. Although each made their own mark, each also furthered the general scope of the original campus plan through the siting of buildings and the decorative scheme employed. Although there are deviations, and intrusions, the district reflects the original campus plan and accounts for growth that was unanticipated in 1912.

University of Southern Mississippi Historic District

Forrest, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See Continuation Sheets

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: McCain Library and Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 035-HAT-4000

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approx 55

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>16</u>	<u>277830</u>	<u>3468175</u>	C	<u>16</u>	<u>278385</u>	<u>3467745</u>
	Zone	Eastings	Northing		Zone	Eastings	Northing
B	<u>16</u>	<u>278370</u>	<u>3468140</u>	D	<u>16</u>	<u>277860</u>	<u>3467770</u>
E	<u>16</u>	<u>277765</u>	<u>3468030</u>				
	Zone	Eastings	Northing		Zone	Eastings	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Continuation sheets

University of Southern Mississippi Historic District

Forrest, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See Continuation Sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William M. Gatlin, Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date January 6, 2010

street & number PO Box 571 telephone 601-576-6951

city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205-0571

e-mail bgatlin@mdah.state.ms.us

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** See continuation sheets

**City or Vicinity:**

**County:**

**State:**

**Photographer:**

**Date Photographed:**

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

1 of \_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Hattiesburg, Forrest Count, Mississippi

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District  
Hattiesburg, Forrest Count, Mississippi

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highway 49 and Hardy Street in the City of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi, the boundary extends west along the north side of Hardy Street for approximately 1500 hundred feet. The boundary line turns north at the west entrance to the Museum of Art and runs north until it intersects with Southern Drive. The boundary line turns west along the south edge of Southern Drive until it intersects with 31<sup>st</sup> Street. The boundary line turns north for one block where 31<sup>st</sup> Street intersects with Pearl Street. The boundary turns east along the south side of Pearl Street and runs for approximately 300 feet. At that point the line turns north and runs approximately 300 feet where it turns to the east and continues until it intersects Sunset Drive. At that point the boundary line turns north and runs along the west side of Sunset Drive for approximately 1000 feet. The line turns east and runs east approximately 700 feet. At that point the line turns south and runs until it intersects with College Drive. The line turns east and follows the north edge of College Drive until it intersects with U.S. Highway 49. The line turns south and runs along the west edge of U. S. Highway 49 approximately 400 feet where it turns to the west and runs to the west until it intersects Eagle Walk. The line turns south and runs along the east edge of Eagle Walk until it intersects with Felder Place. The line turns to the east and runs along the north edge of Felder Place until it intersects with U.S. Highway 49. The line turns south and runs south until it reaches the intersection with Hardy Street, which marks the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary line includes the historic core of the campus including all of the area included in the original campus plan drawn for the Mississippi Normal College. The boundary includes the first areas outside the original plan where buildings were constructed to account for the school's growth and expansion. The historic district includes the original buildings built for the school when it was established and the additional buildings built during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century which mark the growth of the school from a state normal school to a comprehensive university.

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Hattiesburg, Forrest, Mississippi

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Photograph 0001-011

1. University of Southern Mississippi Historic District
2. Forrest, Mississippi
3. Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian
5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Photograph 0001

4. May 21, 2008
6. Administration Building, camera facing northwest

Photograph 0002

4. May 21, 2008
6. Bennett Hall, camera facing northeast

Photograph 0003

4. May 21, 2008
6. Danforth Chapel, camera facing southeast

Photograph 0004

4. May 23, 2008
6. Demonstration School, camera facing northwest

Photograph 0005

4. May 23, 2008
6. Fritzche-Gibbs Hall, camera facing northwest

Photograph 0006

4. May 21, 2008
6. Dining Hall, camera facing northeast

Photograph 0007

4. May 21, 2008
6. College Hall, camera facing west

Photograph 0008

4. May 23, 2008
6. Marsh Hall, camera facing south

Photograph 0009

4. May 23, 2008
6. Power Plant, camera facing west

Photograph 0010

4. May 23, 2008
6. Southern Drive near Marsh Hall, camera facing northeast

Photograph 0011

4. May 21, 2009

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National Park Service**

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   Historic District  
   Hattiesburg, Forrest, Mississippi

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6. Forrest County Hall, camera facing northwest

For all Photographs 0012-0020

1. University of Southern Mississippi Historic District
2. Forrest, Mississippi
3. Susan Tietz, MDAH Architectural Historian

Photograph 0012

4. May 21, 2008
6. McLemore Hall, camera facing northwest

Photograph 0013

4. May 21, 2008
6. Bedie Smith Clinic, camera facing northeast

Photograph 0014

4. May 23, 2008
6. President's House, camera facing north east

Photograph 0015

4. May 21, 2008
6. Industrial Cottage, camera facing east

Photograph 0016

4. May 21, 2008
6. Mississippi Hall, camera facing east

Photograph 0017

4. May 21, 2009
6. Hickman Hall, camera facing southeast

Photograph 0018

4. May 21, 2008
6. Hattiesburg Hall, camera facing north

Photograph 0019

4. May 21, 2008
6. Bolton Hall, camera facing west

Photograph 0020

4. May 23, 2008
7. Jones Hall, camera facing north

For all Photographs 0021-0029

1. University of Southern Mississippi Historic District
2. Forrest, Mississippi

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Hattiesburg, Forrest, Mississippi

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3. William Gatlin, MDAH Architectural Historian

Photograph 0021

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. Cook Library, camera facing south

Photograph 0022

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. McCain Library and Archives, camera facing south

Photograph 0023

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. Sitting area near Stout Hall, camera facing northeast

Photograph 0024

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. West Memorial Drive pedestrian walkway, camera facing north

Photograph 0025

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. West Memorial Drive pedestrian walkway, camera facing south

Photograph 0026

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. College Drive pedestrian walkway, camera facing west

Photograph 0027

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. Lake Byron, camera facing southwest

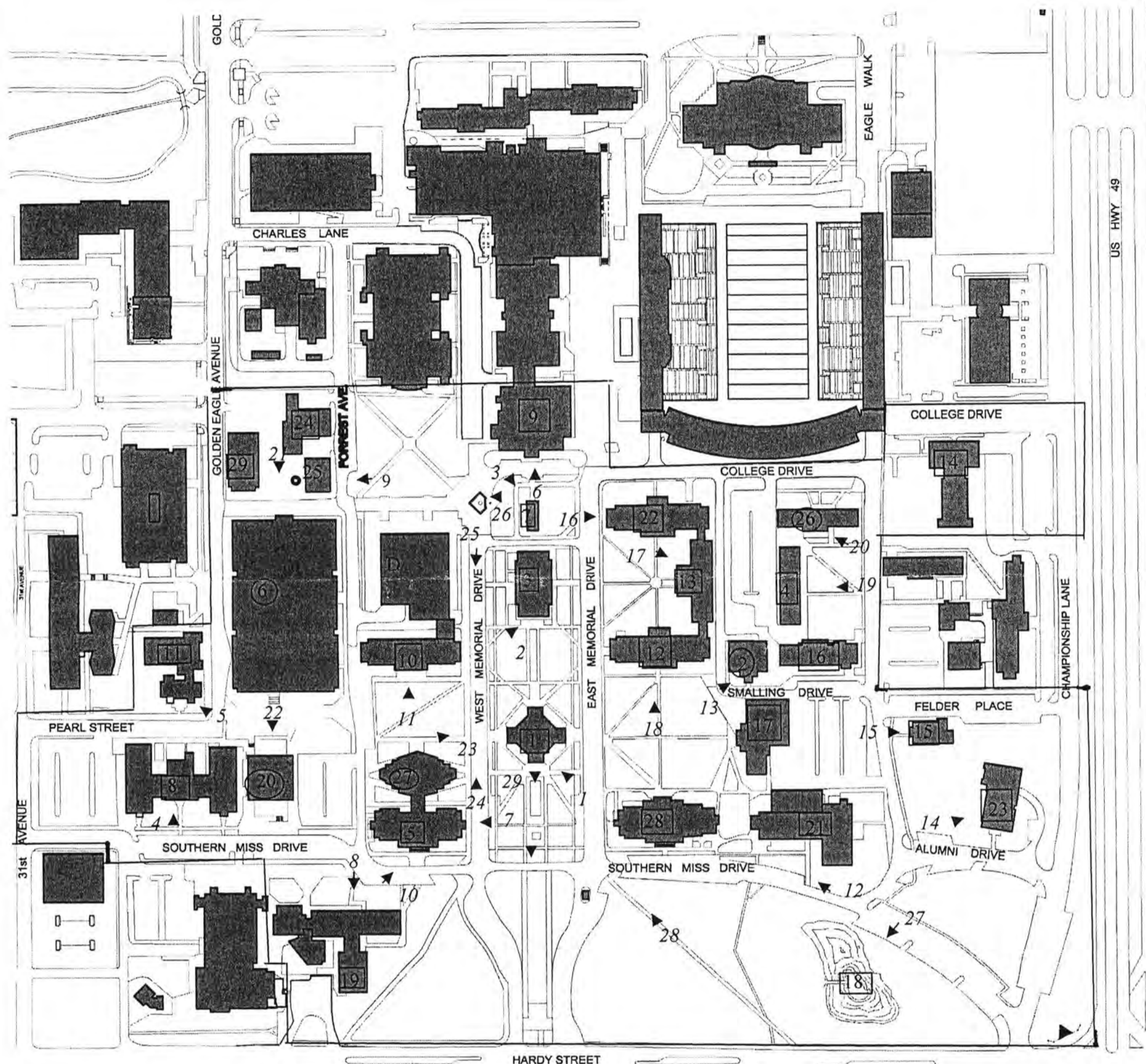
Photograph 0028

- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. Rose Garden, camera facing north






Photograph 0029

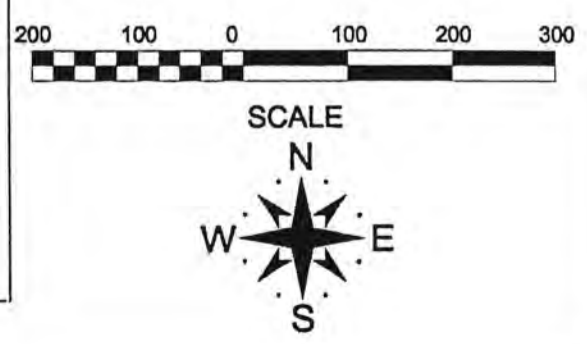
- 4. September 28, 2009
- 6. Hardy Street entrance, camera facing south





The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District

	District Boundary
	Contributing
	Noncontributing
	Demolished 2009
	Photographs



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: University of Southern Mississippi Historic District, The

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Forrest

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/10                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/19/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/06/10                  DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000063

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER:    N    PDIL:                      N    PERIOD:            N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE:                    N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL:            N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    3.10.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



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MS - Forrest - USM Historic District - 0002

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MS - Forest - USM Historic District - 0027

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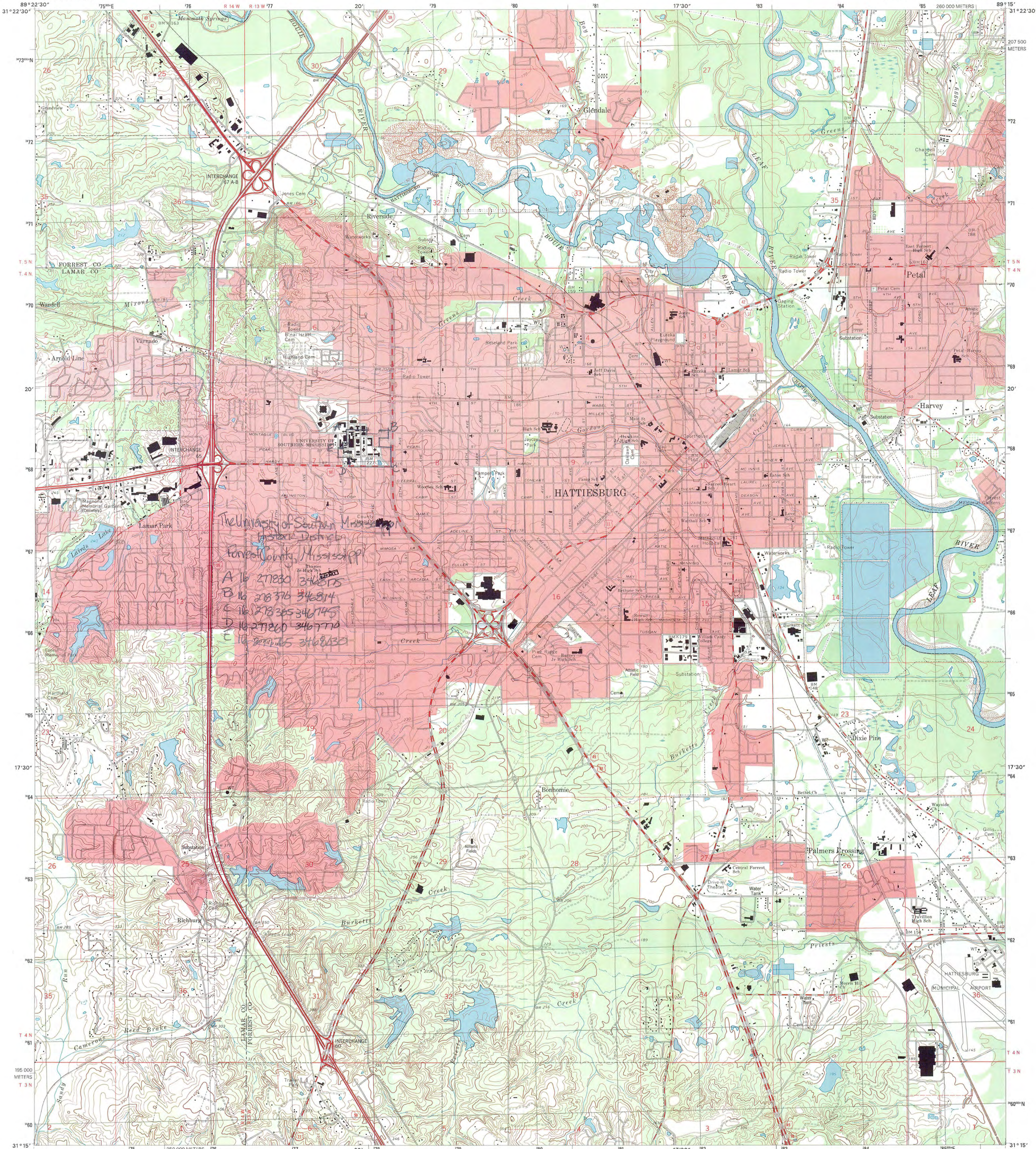


UNIVERSITY  
OF  
SOUTHERN  
MISSISSIPPI

MS - Forrest - USM Historic District - 0028

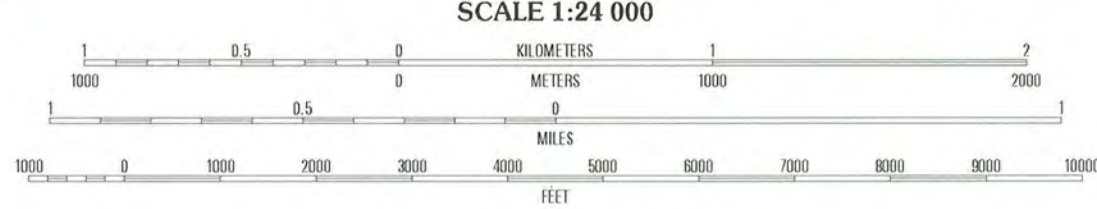
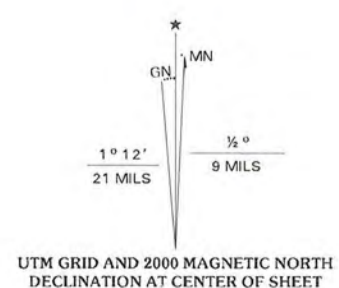


MS. Forrest - USM Historic Product - 0029



The University of Southern Mississippi  
Historic District  
Forrest County, Mississippi  
A 16 27830 3468175  
B 16 278376 3468114  
C 16 278365 3467745  
D 16 278260 3467770  
E 16 278265 3468330

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1960. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1996 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1964.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16 2500-meter ticks: Mississippi Coordinate System of 1983 (east zone)  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
Landmark buildings verified 1964.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

1	2	3
4	5	6
6	7	8

1 Sanford  
2 Eastabuchie  
3 Hattiesburg  
4 Hattiesburg SW  
5 Cartersville  
6 Purvis  
7 Dixie  
8 Mc Laurin

HATTIESBURG, MS  
1996

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NIMA 3146 IV SE-SERIES V843

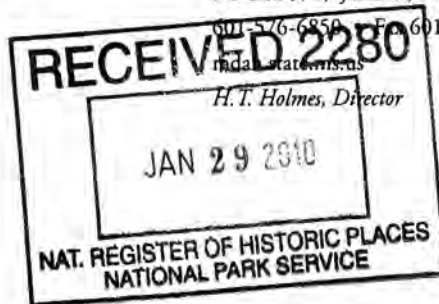




PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

601-576-6850 Fax 601-576-6975

mdah.state.ms.us



January 27, 2010

Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Associate Director for Cultural Resources  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following property to the National Register of Historic Places:

The University of Southern Mississippi Historic District, Hattiesburg, Forrest County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board at its meeting on January 21, 2010.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Gatlin".

Kenneth H. P'Pool

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator