

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

10-29-75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Public Square

AND/OR COMMON

Confederate Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

and Washington Streets

Confederate Park (Bounded by Main, Capitol, Walnut/

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Demopolis

VICINITY OF

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Marengo

091

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Demopolis

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Demopolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marengo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Linden

STATE

Alabama

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## DESCRIPTION

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

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

Confederate Park is one city block square located in the down town business district, bounded on the south by Washington Street, on the West by Main Street, on the north by Capitol Street and on the east by Walnut Street.

A concrete sidewalk, about 9' wide on the east, west, and north and 6' wide on the south borders the entire park, with a diagonal walk about 9' wide extending across the park from the southeast corner of Washington and Walnut Streets to the northwest corner of Capitol and Main Streets. This diagonal sidewalk divides in the center of the park, providing a walkway of the same width around a large circular fish pond, about 35' to 40' in diameter. The pond, built in 1895, is supplied water by a large three-tiered cast iron water fountain supported by three Grecian-type statues about 4½' to 5' tall. A 2½' iron fence, set in a raised concrete base, surrounds the pool. The park is landscaped, planted with a large variety of trees, shrubs, bulbs and flowers.

The Demopolis City Administrative Building is located in the center of the square, on the Walnut Street side. The central and original part of this brick building (painted white) is two-story and is 50' x 50', of Federal architecture, with a hipped roof. In recent years one-story wings have been added on the north and south ends of the building and a porch, with six Doric columns, has been added across the front of the original building.

On the northeast corner stands a Greek Revival brick building, painted white, with Doric pilasters at each side of the entrance. The building was erected in 1843 and is still in good condition. Adaptive use is being made of the building now, with office space in the front part, and the fire department housed in the back part.

On the Washington Street side of the park, near the southeast corner, there is a summer house or open pavillion, octagonal in shape, about 22' in diameter, with a peaked roof supported by eight wooden pillars with diagonal scrolled braces. Below the roof there is a 2½' wide latticework border. The pavillion is concrete floored and equipped with old wrought iron benches.

There are two bronze historic markers in the park. One is a marker near the south end of the City Administrative Building, to designate the park as Confederate Park. This historic public square was not named "Confederate Park" until 1923, and it was not until 1962 that the marker was placed there. The other marker is beneath a magnolia tree planted (near the southwest corner) to commemorate Demopolis' heroes who died in the first World War.

Original Physical Appearance of Park: An early description of the public square says that when it was first laid out it was "dazzling white, treeless and fenceless", and that there was a meeting house near the center of the north side of the square, described as a substantial log room with a "small belfry from which a tiny bell sounded the call to the people, for business, preaching or politics."

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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It was not until after the fountain was installed, in 1895, that the crosswalk and sidewalks were laid. Early postcards indicate that the wrought iron fence, around the fountain pool, was probably put up around the end of the 19th Century. The original fountain had only one large bowl, and, in addition to the three supporting Greek-like statues, had a statue which stood above the center of the bowl which held some sort of receptacle from which water flowed into the bowl and out into the pool. The pool has been the same size since it was first built.

The summer house dates back to the latter half of the 19th Century, and was built by L. A. Rudisill, who was known to have worked as a contractor in Demopolis as early as 1855. It was first located about 30' or 40' south of the original part of the present administration building.

In very recent years, about six feet were taken from the south and east sides of the square to provide better parking on Washington and Walnut Streets. It was then that the previously 9' sidewalk on the south was taken up, and a 6' one laid in its place a little further back.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      June 10, 1819

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Urban Planning: The primary significance of this public square is that it has existed from the time Demopolis was organized as a town in 1819, and is a result of "urban planning" as early as 1819. Its existence comes from the foresightedness of the five original commissioners of Demopolis, who on June 10, 1819 met to lay off the street plans for the newly organized town. One of the resolutions in these plans provided that "one square of blocks or lots containing eight in number, bounded north by Capitol Street, west by Market (Main) Street be reserved for the erection of such buildings as the commissioners may hereafter determine on". The plans were adopted the same day and S. C. Stone was employed to survey the town. From that date on, this area has served as the public square. It is one of the oldest public squares in Alabama.

While it is now named "Confederate Park", this name was not given to the historic square until 1923, at the request of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Since none of the present buildings facing the square was built until more than 70 years after the square was dedicated, the square itself remains as one of the oldest permanent sites in Demopolis.

Architecture: The three structures on the square represent three kinds of 19th Century architecture, the original part of the City Administration building being Federal, the 1843 corner building being Greek Revival, and the summer house being worthily representative of the Victorian architecture of the late 1800's.

Landscape Architecture: The physical lay-out of the square, with its early 19th Century civic buildings, its informal landscaping, the centrally located water fountain and large goldfish pond encircled with well-chosen shrubs and seasonal blooming flowers, together with the Victorian summer house, combine to allow Demopolis to retain a typical 19th Century setting.

Only trees, shrubs, and flowers indigenous to the Black Belt area are used. The wide diagonal cross walk is lined on both sides with red bud trees. Other native plantings are used throughout the square, such as magnolias, crape myrtles, flowering crab apples, pecans, oaks, cedars, and silver leaf maples.

Historic: The Public Square is historically significant to Demopolis because from the very earliest years of the town, this square has been a central meeting place for its people, for business, preaching or politics; and while, because of river traffic, the very earliest business houses were on the river banks, the public square has now grown to be the center of the present day business area in Demopolis.

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The two civic buildings are historically significant in that they relate to ante-bellum living as well as post-Civil War life in this town, older than the State of Alabama. They are among the oldest buildings in Demopolis, and are much older than any of the present downtown buildings.

The exact construction date of the City Administration Building is not known but it may have been built as early as 1820. On May 24, 1819, even while the plans for laying out the city were being made, the city commissioners advertised for bids for construction of a two-story building, 30' x 50', to be used as a tavern, with a contract to be made on June 5, 1819. During much of the 19th Century this building served as a tavern as well as the city hall. After the War Between the States and during reconstruction it was also used for storage of Marengo County records. In 1891 two upstairs rooms were used as a boys school. Around the turn of the century part of the downstairs was used as a U. S. Post Office. The town's first public library was located in the same two rooms that the boys school had formerly occupied, and was later moved to the north wing where it remained until 1971. The present City Administration and Chamber of Commerce are housed in the structure.

The structure on the northeast corner was built in 1843 of locally made bricks, by the Presbyterians of Demopolis for a house of worship. They used the building for their sanctuary until after the Civil War. During the reconstruction period, a garrison of Federal troops, stationed in Demopolis, moved the county seat from Linden, Alabama, and took the Presbyterian church building for a courthouse. The Federal government paid the congregation in 1868 for the building it had confiscated, and then in later years they turned it back to the city authorities. Since that time the building has served at various times as a meeting house, an auditorium and opera house, a voting station, office building and at the present time is used for offices in the front part and a fire station in the rear.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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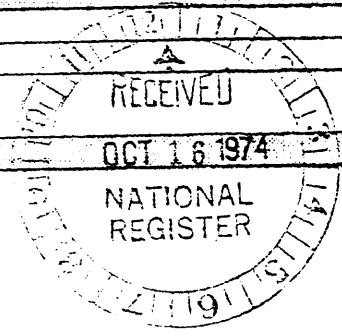
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Alabama	
COUNTY Marengo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Confederate Park		AND/OR HISTORIC: Public Square	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Confederate Park (Bounded by Main, Capitol, Walnut & Washington Sts.)			
CITY OR TOWN: Demopolis			
STATE: Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Marengo	CODE 091
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Joseph C. P. Turner			
DATE OF PHOTO: April 1, 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Demopolis Public Library			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Northwest view of square			



**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

GPO 921-737

Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

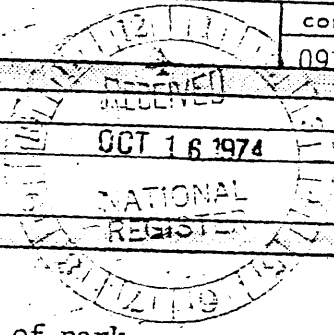
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

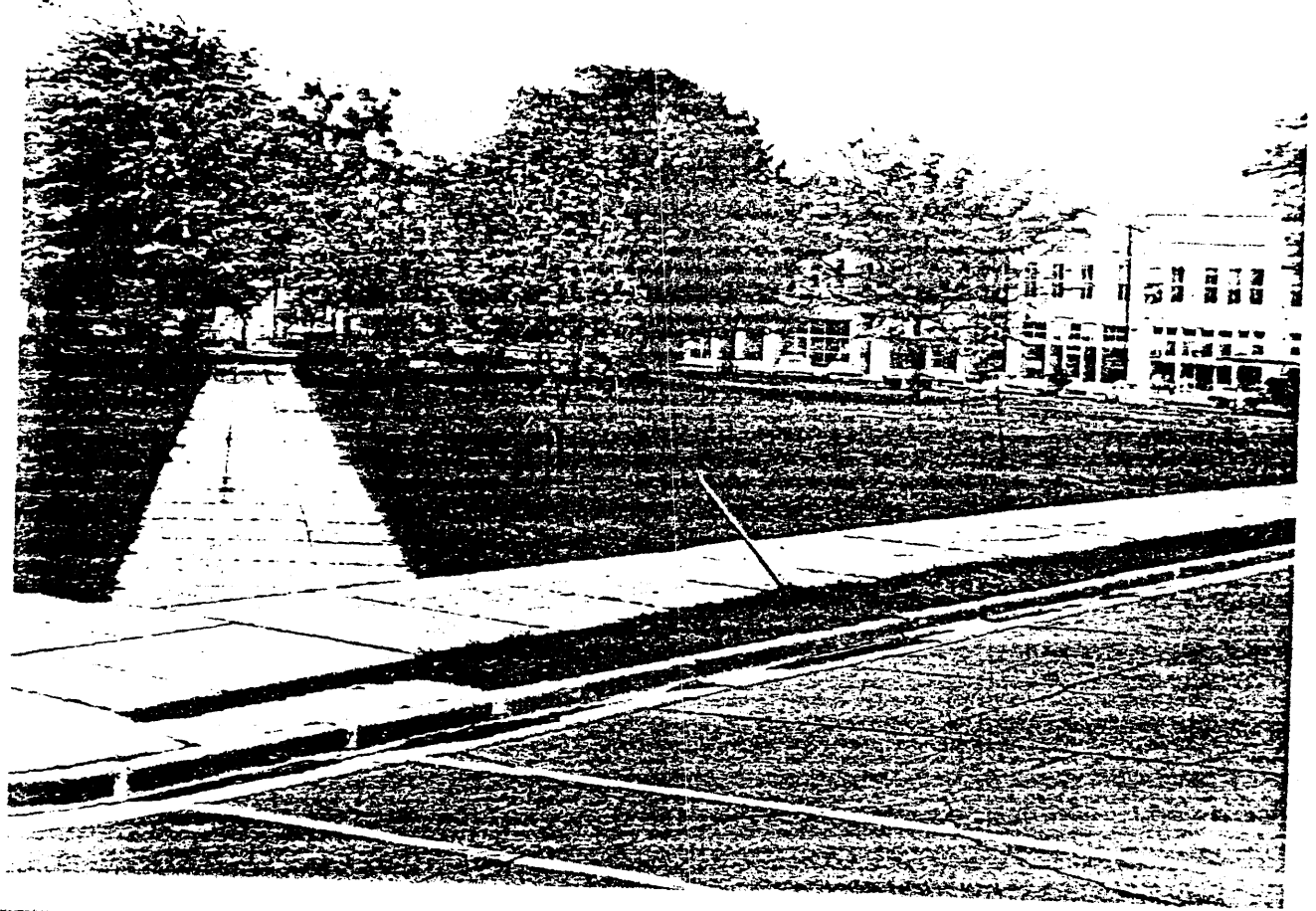
STATE Alabama	
COUNTY Marengo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

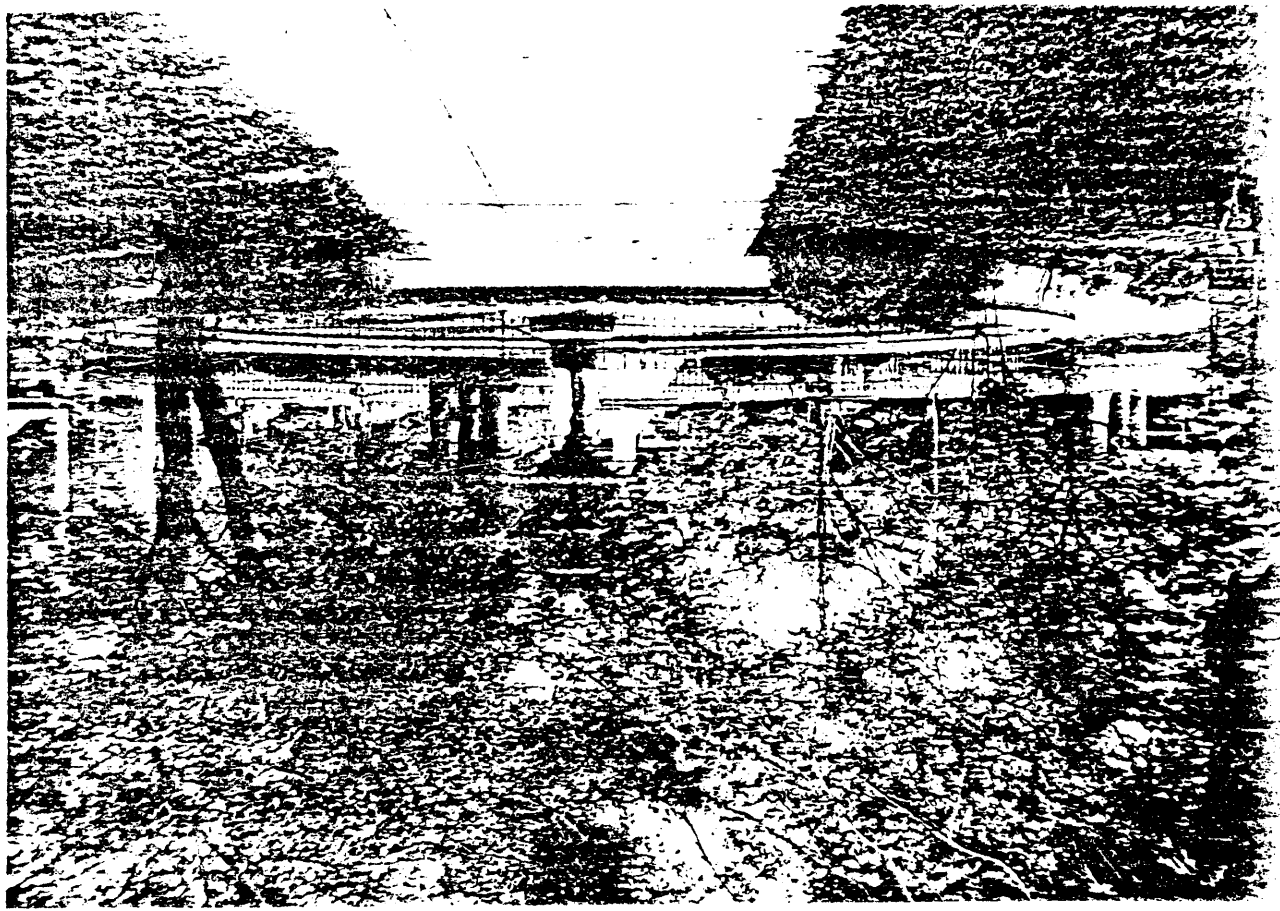
1. NAME			
COMMON: Confederate Park		AND/OR HISTORIC: Public Square	
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STREET AND NUMBER: Confederate Park (bounded by Main, Capitol, Walnut, & Washington Streets)			
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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Demopolis Public Library			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Pavillion located near southeast corner of park.			



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Form No. 10 301a  
(Rev. 10-71)

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES    ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Public Square

AND/OR COMMON

Confederate Park

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Demopolis

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Marengo

STATE

Alabama

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Joseph C. P. Turner

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Demopolis Public Library

DATE OF PHOTO

April 1, 1973

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Southeast view of cast iron water fountain located in center of park.

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1** NAME

HISTORIC  
Public Square

AND/OR COMMON  
Confederate Park

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN  
Demopolis

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Marengo

STATE  
Alabama

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT  
Joseph C. P. Turner  
NEGATIVE FILED AT  
Demopolis Public Library

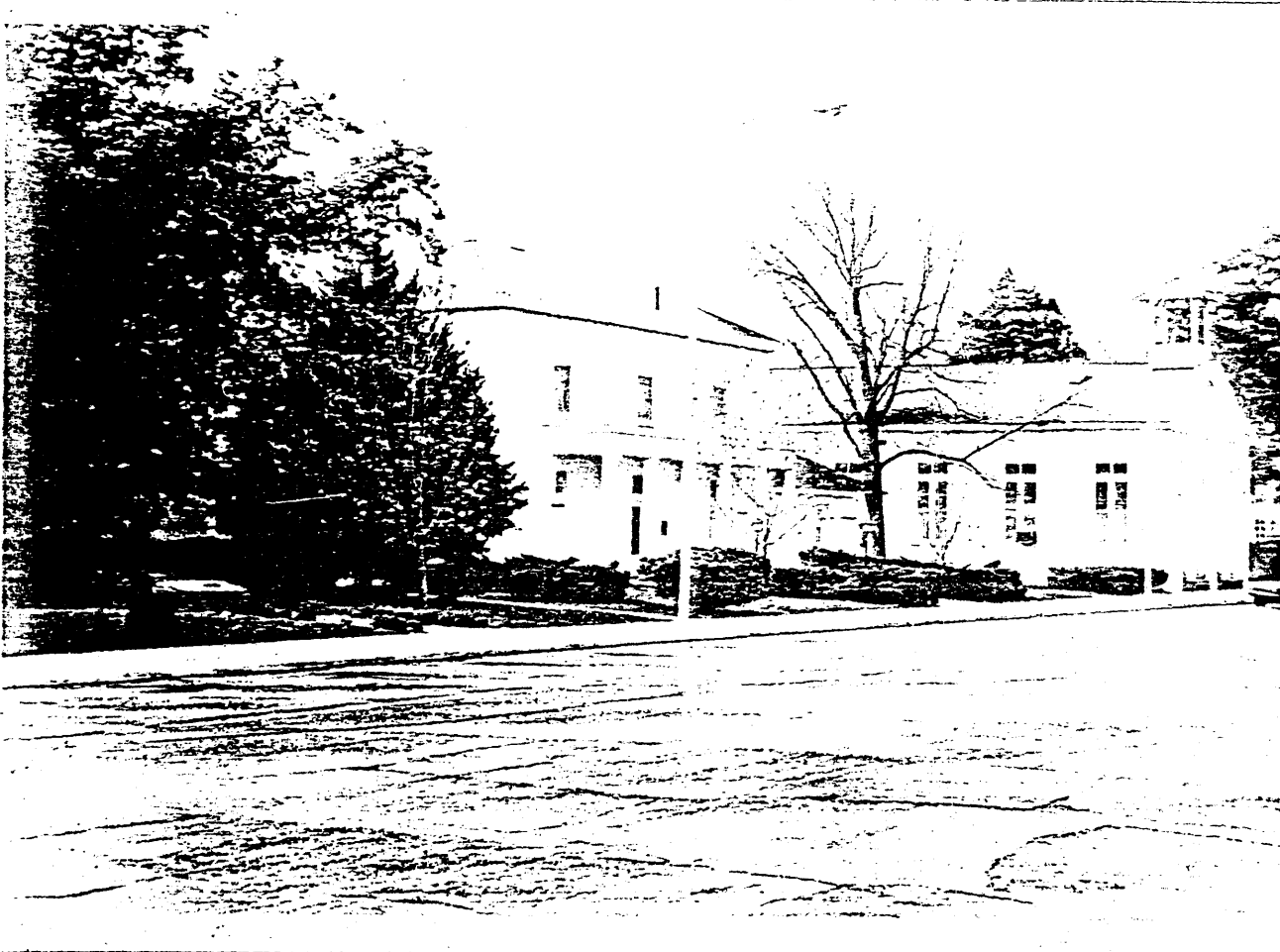
DATE OF PHOTO  
April 1, 1973

**4** IDENTIFICATION

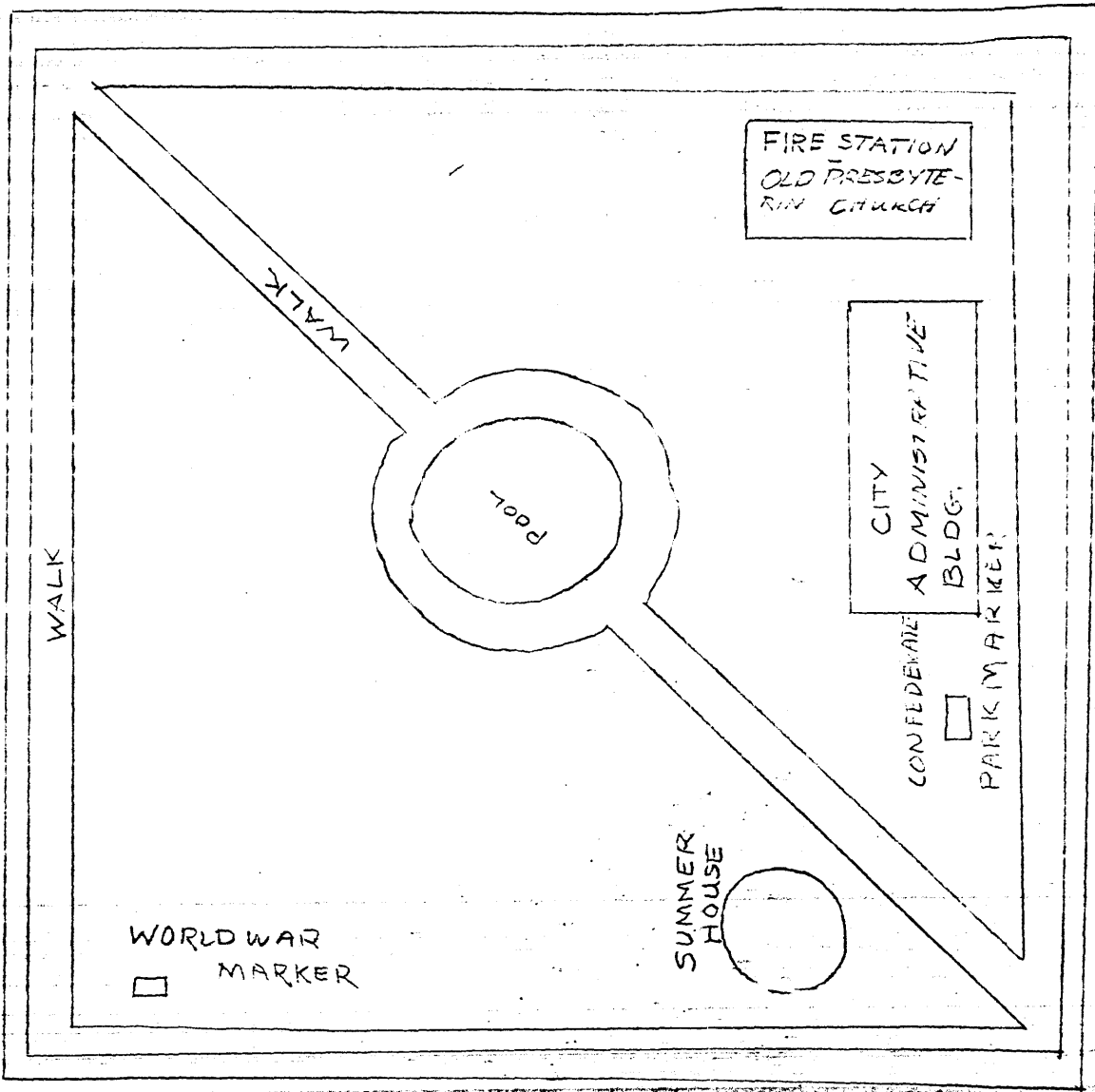
DESCRIBE VIEW DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Southeast view, showing Demopolis City Administrative Building and 1843 Presbyterian Church presently used by city fire department.



↑  
N



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME	STATE
COMMON: Confederate Park	Alabama
AND/OR HISTORIC: Public Square	COUNTY
	Marengo
	FOR NPS USE ONLY
	ENTRY NUMBER
	DATE

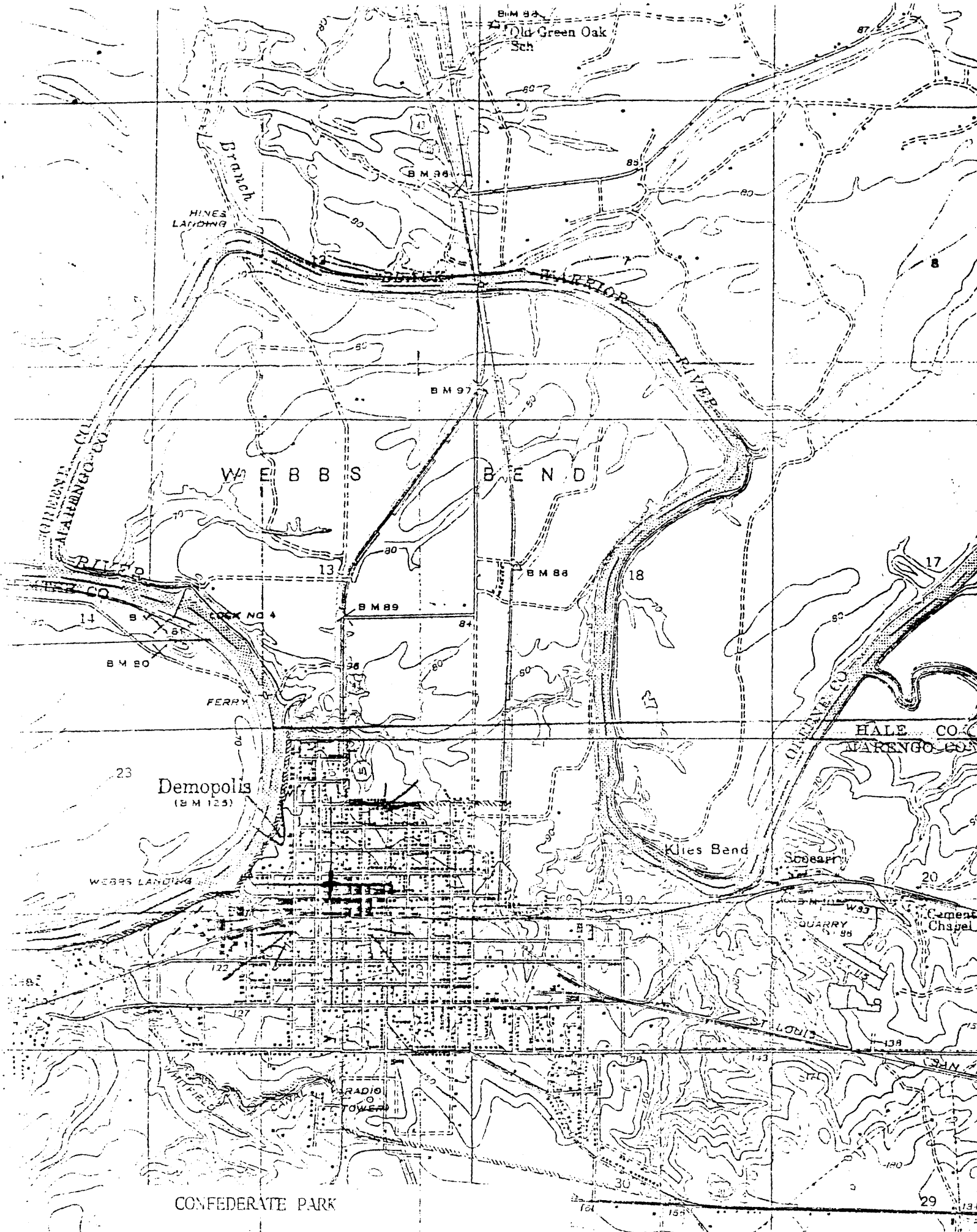
2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Demopolis
Confederate Park (Bounded by Main, Capitol, Walnut & Washington Sts.)

3. MAP REFERENCE	STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
SOURCE: U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey Map Demopolis Quadrangle	Alabama	01	Marengo	091

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

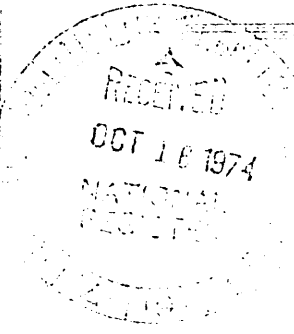
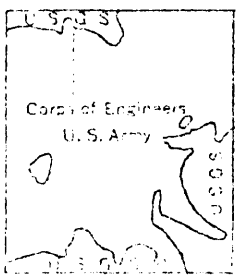
OCT 16 1974  
NATIONAL REGISTER



Latitude: 32° 31' 04" Longitude: 87° 50' 17"

50 R 2 E R 3 E

TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH



Contour interval 10 feet  
Datum: mean sea level

APPROX MADE NOV 1944  
SAC, NATIONAL MAPS