

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Chambliss Building
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 932 Lynch Street
city or town: Jackson
state: MS code: MS county: Hinds code: 049 zip code: 39203

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul
Signature of certifying official

FEBRUARY 11, 2004
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register,
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____

Edson H. Bell
Signature of the Keeper

3/22/04
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

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

Category of Property: Building

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

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

NA

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions:**

Commerce/trade: business

Current Functions:

Commerce/trade: business

7. Description**Architectural Classification(s):**

no style

Materials:

foundation: concrete

roof: asphalt

walls: brick

other

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- X **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

Ethnic heritage - Black

Period of Significance

1936-1953

Significant Dates

circa 1936

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

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

Significant Person(s)

Jesse R. Chambliss, Sr.

Cultural Affiliation(s)

Architect/Builder

Charlie Robinson, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet.

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
 15 763580 3576870**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Richard J. Cawthon (based on a draft prepared by Marilyn Luckett)
organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History date: November 2003
street & number: P. O. Box 571 telephone: 601-576-6940
city or town: Jackson state: MS zip code: 39205-0571

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name: Milton Chambliss
street & number: P.O. Box 3344 telephone: 601-979-3877 (W) 601-969-5356 (H)
city or town : Jackson state: MS zip code: 39207

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

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Chambliss Building
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Narrative Description

The Chambliss Building is a one-story, flat-roofed, brick duplex commercial building, built about 1935-36. It is located at 932 J. R. Lynch Street, in what was formerly an active commercial area extending along Lynch Street several blocks east of the campus of Jackson State University.

The building is rectangular in shape, approximately 26 feet wide and 60 feet deep, enclosing approximately 1475 square feet of floor space. It contains two commercial spaces which do not connect internally. The western half of the building contained the Chambliss Shoe Hospital (later Chambliss Shoe Shop) from the 1930s into the 1980s. The eastern half of the building was leased out for other businesses. It has been used as a commercial laundromat since 1979.

The front façade, which faces south onto Lynch Street, directly abuts the sidewalk with no setback. The façade consists of two shopfronts, each consisting of a single-light paneled wooden door flanked by plate-glass shop windows over brick bulkheads. The doors and windows of both shopfronts are covered by metal mesh security grilles, but these grilles do not detract substantially from the visual character of the building. Each shopfront is surmounted by a signboard which covers the space originally occupied by a transom. (It has not been established whether the transoms survive intact under the signboards.) The upper façade consists of an unpainted brick parapet, slightly stepped at the center, in common bond, with a two-course brick coping.

The west side wall of the building was originally exposed, though for many years it had been hidden by an adjacent building. That building has been removed in recent years, revealing early signage for the Chambliss Shoe Hospital painted onto the otherwise bare brick, at the southern end of the wall. The remainder of the wall retains plaster from the building that stood adjacent. The east wall of the Chambliss Building directly abuts the former Grand Theater (later Ebony Theater), which was built about 1941.

The interior of the western section of the building retains a high degree of physical integrity from its days as the Chambliss Shoe Hospital. The high wooden board ceiling, the plaster walls, and the concrete floor are intact, and several pieces of original furniture remain, including the shoe repair workbench and the wooden shoe-shine bench. The interior of the eastern side is not as intact. Currently used as a laundromat, the room has a dropped acoustic-tile ceiling and contains laundry appliances, but it retains its architectural character otherwise.

The Chambliss Building stands today as the most intact surviving commercial building in the stretch of Lynch Street between Terry Road and Jackson State University, and it retains a high degree of integrity from the period when it housed the Chambliss Shoe Hospital operated by Jesse R. Chambliss, Sr., from the 1930s through the 1960s.

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Chambliss Building
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Statement of Significance

The Chambliss Building is locally significant under Criteria A and B, in the area of Ethnic Heritage – Black, because it represents the contributions of Jesse R. Chambliss, Sr. (1885-1983), an African American businessman and community leader, and because it represents, better than any other surviving building, the development of Lynch Street as a center of the African American community in Jackson from the 1930s through the 1950s. The period of significance extends from 1936, the approximate date of construction of the building, until 1953, fifty years prior to this nomination, by which time J.R. Chambliss, at the age of 68, had made his greatest commercial and social contributions and by which time commercial activity along Lynch Street was well established.

The Chambliss Building was constructed about 1936 for J.R. Chambliss, Sr., who owned and operated the Chambliss Shoe Hospital, which had previously been located at 119 North Farish Street. The builder was Charlie Robinson, J.R. Chambliss's father-in-law. It was one of the first commercial buildings in the Lynch Street area to be built and owned by African Americans to house a black-owned business. The Chambliss Shoe Hospital, a shoe repair shop, operated in the western half of the building. The eastern half of the building was rented for other businesses. (The Lynch Street Grocery and Market was located there through the 1940s and 50s, according to city directories.)

Jesse R. Chambliss was born on July 6, 1885, in Claiborne County, Mississippi. His father was Marcus Chambliss, who had served with the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. Jesse R. Chambliss attended Alcorn College from 1900 to 1905. He moved to Jackson in December 1905 and established himself in the shoe repair business. He became a leader of Jackson's African American business community from the 1920s through the 1960s. He was a founder of the Jackson Negro Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of the State Mutual Savings & Loan and the Universal Life Insurance Company, which were established to provide financial and insurance services to black Mississippians. He was also very active in civic and fraternal activities, serving as state treasurer for the Eureka Grand Lodge of the (Colored) Knights of Pythias and serving several times as a delegate at the organization's national convention. J.R. Chambliss was a founder of the first African American Boy Scout troop in Jackson, Troop 51 (one of five chartered in the state in 1932, and the only one of those five that is still active). He was active as a Scout leader for many years and received numerous awards and recognitions for his service. He was a longtime member of Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Jesse R. Chambliss, Sr., operated the Chambliss Shoe Hospital (later called the Chambliss Shoe Shop) at the Chambliss Building on Lynch Street from 1936 into the early 1970s. He kept extensive personal and business records, which provide a detailed look into the life of a Southern black businessman and civic leader during those years. These papers have recently been donated to the Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center at Jackson State University.

The Chambliss Building is the most intact surviving commercial building in the former commercial area of Lynch Street east of the Jackson State University campus. It retains a high degree of architectural integrity on the exterior, and on the interior of the western half, where the shoe repair shop had been located. (The eastern half has housed a laundromat in recent years, and is not as intact on the interior.) It is now owned by Milton Chambliss, grandson of J.R. Chambliss. The Chambliss Building is the only surviving building with significant associations with Jesse R. Chambliss, Sr. His family home at 624 Rose Street no longer stands.

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Chambliss Building
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Bibliography

This nomination is based on a draft prepared by Marilyn Lockett.

American Biographical Institute, Personalities of the South, Historical Publications of America, Inc. 1977.

Dease, Ruth Roseman. "Footprints of Jessie R. Chambliss, Sr. – A Biography of Jessie R. Chambliss, Sr." Unpublished typescript, 1972.

Jackson, Mississippi, City Directories, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1943, 1947, 1950, 1954, 1960, 1971, 1979.

"Negro Volunteer Scouts Celebrate Scout Week; Honor Silver Beavers" The Clarion Ledger. Feb. 14, 1970.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 20, Block "B" of Beard's Re-survey, a Subdivision of Record of the City of Jackson, as recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, MS

Boundary Justification:

This is the lot occupied by the Chambliss Building.

Chambliss Building, 932 Lynch Street
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Sanborn map of Jackson, 1946, page 42

