



113

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Winona Community House  
other names/site number:

**2. Location**

street & number: 113 Sterling Street not for publication \_\_\_  
city or town: Winona vicinity \_\_\_  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Montgomery code: 097 zip code: 38697

**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.)

L. Z. Holmes 01.21.09  
Signature of certifying official Date

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):

John H. Ball 3.10.09  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:** Public / Local

**Number of Resources within Property:**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:** Building

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

1

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register** None

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:** SOCIAL/civic

**Current Functions:** SOCIAL/civic

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):** Other: Rustic

**Materials:**

foundation: Concrete

roof: Asphalt

walls: Stone

other: Wood

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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.
- X **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  
Architecture****Period of Significance**  
1937-38**Significant Dates****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)****Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder****Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**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:  
\_\_\_\_\_
-

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	246140	3798010	C		
B				D		

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: William M. Gatlin, Architectural Historian

organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

street & number: P.O. Box 571

city or town: Jackson

state: MS

date: December 3, 2008

telephone: 601-576-6940

zip code: 39205--571

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name: City of Winona

street & number: P.O. Box 29

city or town: Winona

state: MS

telephone: 662-283-1232

zip code: 38967

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**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.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Winona, Montgomery County, Mississippi

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Winona Community House is located in downtown Winona, a small city in north central Mississippi, in an area where the commercial district and a residential district intersect. The building is on a large tract with mature trees, separated from the street by a large paved parking lot. Houses to the south and west sit on higher ground while the lots to the north are on the same grade.

The Winona Community House is a one-story, wood-frame, stone-clad building with a U-shape footprint. Two primary wings intersect in an L-configuration. Both have smaller wings that complete the U-shape.

The primary façade faces east, toward the commercial district. The main block is topped by a moderately steep gable roof covered with asphalt shingles and featuring exposed rafter tails. All exterior walls are clad with irregularly shaped native stones with red brick accents. The main entrance is delineated by a large pedimented portico with a steep intersecting gable roof centered on the main block. The portico—also clad in stone—features half-timbering in the tympanum, and the heads of large timber beams project from the face. A large round arch is outlined in red brick and the front stone walls on either side of the arch are battered. The floor under the portico is concrete. Double-leaf sixteen-light wood doors provide access to the interior. The portico is flanked by paired and single windows set on concrete sills. All windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash. The corners of the main pavilion are decorated by red brick quoins.

A smaller, lower wing adjoins the main block to the north. This wing has a side gable roof with exposed rafter tails. A single 16-light wood door is centered and reached by a handicap ramp. The door is flanked by 6/6 double hung windows with concrete sills. The red brick quoins are repeated at the corner. A large exterior stone chimney is visible on the gable end.

On the south façade the two primary wings intersect, with the gable front of the east wing dominating the view. The gable is half-timbered with a louvered wood vent in the apex. A projecting stone-clad portico with an intersecting gable roof is centered with flanking 6/6 double hung windows. The portico is a smaller version of the larger portico on the east face with half-timbering, exposed beam heads and the round arch decorated with red brick. The red brick quoins are repeated at both corners. The side wall of the perpendicular wing is slightly recessed with an intersecting gable roof with exposed rafter beams. There are four 6/6 double-hung windows with concrete sills. The red brick quoins are present at the corners.

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The west façade is dominated by the gable end of the west wing. The gable is stuccoed without half-timbers and there are no exposed rafter beams. A large stone exterior fireplace dominates the view. The fireplace is flanked by 6/6 double-hung-sash windows. To the north is a single pane window next to a replacement door. A lower wing with an intersecting gable roof extends to the north with three double-hung 6/6 windows. The red brick quoins repeat at the corners.

From the north the U-shape is visible, with the gable ends of the two smaller wings and the wall of the west wing creating a courtyard. To the west, the gable end of that wing is dominated by a stone fireplace. In the gable the fireplace is flanked by wood louvered vents and half-timbering. On the stone wall, the chimney is flanked by 6/6 double hung sash windows. Red brick quoins are on the corners. On the east face of the wing are two 6/6 double hung windows and a wood door.

To the east, the wing extends further north. It also has a stone chimney flanked by louvered vents and half-timbering in the gable end and by two small four-pane fixed windows in the wall. The gable end of the main building, visible over the roof of the smaller wing, is also half timbered. On the west, facing the courtyard, the smaller wing has three 6/6 double hung windows and the larger has 6/6 double-hung windows.

Entering the building from the east portico, there is a large rectangular room on a north-south axis. The floors are tongue-and-groove pine set on a north-south axis. The walls are covered with vertical wood planks that are seven- to nine-inches wide with an eight-inch baseboard. Slightly angled boards at the top of each wall create a tray ceiling covered with flushboard on a north to south axis. There are six rows of light fixtures with milk-glass globes. Door and window surrounds are 6 inch planks. There are built-in shelves on the west wall. To the north is a slightly raised stage, about 12'-6" deep. A door is offset to the east.

The door opens to the northeast meeting room, a space that formerly housed the public library. The single room has been divided to create a mechanical room and restrooms. The floors are tongue-and-groove pine. The walls are seven- to nine-inch planks. The ceiling is also wood flushboard. The walls have been painted a soft gold color with cream accents, the only painted finish in the building. The north wall is dominated by a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. The firebox, an arched niche and the sides are accented with red brick.

Returning to the large rectangular room, the south one-third of the west wall opens to the intersecting west wing. The floor and wall finishes are similar to the large room. The ceiling does not have the tray effect and is lower. A large stone fireplace with red brick accents is on the west wall. A door on the north wall leads to a short hall with a small storage area and restrooms. A second door opens to the kitchen.

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The kitchen floor is ceramic tile. Walls and ceiling are wood planks similar to those described before. Built-in counters are located on the north and west walls. There is a door that opens to the outside. A door in the northeast corner opens into the northwest meeting room.

This is a single room with a storage area in the southwest corner that contains the door that opens to the courtyard. Floor, wall, and ceiling finishes are similar to those described above. A small stone fireplace with red brick accents and a wood mantel is located on the north wall.

The Winona Community House foundation was repaired in 2005, which included installation of a French drain. A floor repair project that included replacement of a number of damaged floor planks and refinishing of all wood floors was undertaken in 2005. A 2006 project updated the kitchen appliances and repairs were made to the bathrooms. The roof was replaced with in-kind shingles in 2008. The building is well maintained and retains a high degree of integrity.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Winona Community House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion C as an excellent local example of a Tudor-Revival style building and as a rare example of a native stone building.

Background

The first settler in the Winona area was Colonel O.J. Moore who arrived from Virginia in 1848. After the Mississippi Central Railway opened a depot on Moore's land, the town of Winona developed rapidly. It was incorporated in 1861 and, when Montgomery County was created in 1871, Winona became the county seat and the retail and transportation center serving a broad area of north central Mississippi.

Winona quickly recovered from the Civil War, with rapid growth until 1888 when a fire destroyed much of the downtown. However, the city bounced back and by 1892 a hotel, two banks, a compress, a brick factory and an ice factory were constructed. The growth continued into the twentieth century with construction of a cotton mill, oil mill and a new water works. Another fire in 1904 caused damage to the business district, but again the city rapidly recovered. A 1913 promotional brochure cited the city's water system, public street lights, paved streets and concrete sidewalks as amenities.

The Community House

Like most states, Mississippi suffered the ill effects of the Great Depression. Widespread unemployment struck a state that was already experiencing economic difficulties. State and local leaders were willing to take advantage of federal assistance programs, including the Works Progress Administration (later the Works Projects Administration), commonly known as the WPA.

The WPA was created by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935. It provided assistance to hire semiskilled and skilled workers for public improvement projects. WPA laborers constructed city halls, libraries, hospitals and community buildings across the nation. By 1943, when the program was terminated, WPA laborers had built 116,000 buildings, 78,000 bridges and 651,000 miles of roads across the country.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Works Progress Administration," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works\\_Progress\\_Administration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_Progress_Administration).



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Many Mississippi communities benefited from WPA projects. The projects ranged from zoo buildings in Jackson to a jail in Columbia to a football stadium at the University of Mississippi. The Community House was a common project, with at least seventeen known to survive in the state. The style of building differed from community to community. In Macon, a brick Colonial Revival structure was built while community houses in Carrolton and Enterprise (NR 1994) are Rustic-style log buildings.

On July 2, 1935, the Winona City Council resolved to apply to the WPA for the construction of a community house. The city purchased a lot in January 1936 and the building was completed in July 1936. The very first event held in the building was a celebration of WPA Project Day, held "for the purpose of acquainting the public with the accomplishments of the program during its first year."<sup>2</sup> Among the displays was the WPA Circulating Library in the northeast meeting room of the Community House.

#### Architecture

Based on the range of building types represented in WPA-built community houses in Mississippi, the builder could choose from a wide range of styles. The builder of the Winona Community House chose to employ a vernacular variant of the Tudor Revival style which was broadly popular in domestic architecture in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Tudor Revival style was based on variants of English and French Norman medieval styles. Architects were seeking a picturesque style, and popular magazines such as *House Beautiful* were filled with pictures of European folk houses and small villages. At the same time, builders perfected a manner of recreating the appearance of half-timbering that was inexpensive and easy to apply to a standard wood frame. The Tudor Revival style is marked by decorative half-timbering, steeply pitched roofs with intersecting gables, and prominent exterior chimneys. One sub-type, identified by McAlester, is the stone wall clad building. McAlester also notes that decorative details could draw from Craftsman-style traditions.<sup>3</sup>

The Winona Community House exhibits many of the details of the Tudor Revival style. All the roof lines are steep gables. The main wings intersect at a 90 degree angle, which is repeated by the gable roof of the front portico. The three exterior fireplaces dominate their perspectives. The stone exterior with red brick detailing is well within the Tudor Revival range of elements.

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<sup>2</sup> "W.P.A. Project Day Big Success Here," *The Winona Times*, July 3, 1936, p. 1, col. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003), 355-356.

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The decorative half-timbering in the gable ends is a classic stylistic detail. Even the exposed rafter heads, a Craftsman detail, falls within the recognized variants of the Tudor style.

In a city graced with many fine Colonial Revival, Italianate and Neoclassical buildings,<sup>4</sup> the Winona Community House is the sole example of a Tudor Revival style public building. As a good local example of a significant architectural style popular in Mississippi in the 1920s and 1930s, the Winona Community House contributes to the visible record of the built environment in the local community.

Two other community houses built contemporaneously with the Winona Community House are also examples of the Tudor Revival style. Like the Winona Community House, community houses in Grenada, Grenada County (1935) and Pontotoc, Pontotoc County (1935) are stone veneered with false half-timbered gables. The Grenada Community House was built by Braxton Irby, a stonebuilder, with stone brought from Arkansas. Due to the similarity of the buildings, it is possible Irby was also responsible for the Winona building. However, to date no records from the construction have been found. As a result of recent renovations, the Winona Community House more clearly represents its original condition than its companion buildings.

The three community houses are rare examples of stone or stone-veneered buildings in Mississippi. Due to its geology, Mississippi lacks great quantities of building stone. Therefore no tradition of stone building developed. The fact that the stone for the Grenada Community House had to be imported from Arkansas testifies to that fact. The only true masonry stone building remaining in the state is Rock Hill School, Rankin County (built 1860, listed NR 1978). Other stone-veneered buildings from the Depression era are located at the Tishomingo State Park (listed NR 1998), Smith Park in Jackson (listed NR as part of Smith Park Architectural District, 1976), and the Jackson Zoological Park.

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<sup>4</sup> Winona Commercial Historic District, (NR 1994).

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Crouch, Evelyn Bell, et al., eds. *History of Montgomery County*. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1993.

Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture*. Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999.

Grenada Community House. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, Statewide Survey Files, 043-GRN-0131.

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works\\_Progress\\_Administration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_Progress_Administration).

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Pontotoc Community House. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, Statewide Survey Files, 115-PON-0099.

Winona Commercial Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1994.

*The Winona Times*.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

A lot or parcel of land lying and being situated in the City of Winona, Mississippi, described as follows; Beginning at the Northwest corner of residence lot NO. 23 according to the J. W. Mercer map of the Town of Winona, now City of Winona, Mississippi, made in 1894, which said lot NO. 23 was formerly owned by Miss Etta Turner, and running thence Northerly along the Western line of the established sidewalk on the Western side of Sterling Street 76.3 feet to an iron stake at the Southeast corner of the Methodist Parsonage lot, thence westerly at an angle of 90 degrees, and 58 minutes, 149.4 feet to an iron stake, thence Northerly at an angle of 87 degrees and 55 minutes, 91.7 feet to an iron stake, thence Southerly at an angle of 87 degrees, 25 minutes, 174.5 feet to an iron stake, thence Easterly at an angle of 90 degrees, 35 minutes, 328.5 feet to the beginning point, the lot or parcel hereinbefore described being part of residence lot NO. 141 according to aforesaid map of the town of Winona, Mississippi, and being bounded on the North by the Methodist Parsonage lot and residence lot formerly owned by O. W. Sturdivant, on the east side of Sterling or Court Street, on the South by residence lot formerly owned by Miss Etta Turner and the property of United States Government, and on the west by the residence lot of Dr. E. C. O'Cain and property owned by \_\_\_\_\_.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

This is the property historically associated with the Winona Community House.





Project Name	
Client	
Architect	
Date	
Scale	
Sheet No.	

