

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 03 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name McHenry, George Austin, House  
other names/site number McHenry House

2. Location

street & number McHenry Avenue and Fifth Street N/A not for publication  
city, town McHenry N/A vicinity  
state Mississippi code MS county Stone code 131 zip code 39561

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool Sept. 26, 1988  
Signature of certifying official 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Alton Byars Entered in the 11/3/88  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Other: Queen Anne Influence

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Slate

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The George Austin McHenry House is situated on 1.25 acres of land on McHenry Avenue and Fifth Street in McHenry. The house is surrounded by numerous trees indigenous to the area, as well as a number of massive flowering shrubs. Along McHenry Avenue, in front of the house, is a white picket fence which was built to resemble the fence historically associated with the property.

The two-story irregularly-shaped frame house is surmounted by a steeply-pitched slate (originally cypress) roof with three large gable projections, all of which are enhanced by decorative barge boards. The wrap-around porch is topped by a hipped roof with a smaller gable projection decorated by barge board, a "sunburst" medallion, and three trefoil carvings. The one-story rear addition, built in 1957, is also topped by a hipped roof. The house rests upon brick foundation piers which have been infilled with concrete blocks, but with numerous vents to allow for proper ventilation. Constructed of virgin yellow pine, the exterior walls are finished with 6" matched (tounge-and-groove) weatherboard of 15/16" thickness and cornerboards.

Facing west toward McHenry Avenue, the asymmetrical main facade is dominated by a large offset gable projection with a double gable window, a two-story corner tower, and a one-story wrap-around porch. Three one-over-one double-hung windows dominate both levels of the corner tower, which is topped by a pentagonal roof with a copper weathervane. Directly north of the tower on the second level are two one-over-one double-hung windows. On the first level, directly below these openings, is another one-over-one window and the main entrance which contains a three-panelled pine door with beveled glass. Above and below the glass are three bullseye blocks. The one-story wrap-around porch extends the length of the west facade from the corner tower and across the north elevation roughly one-half its length (originally the porch extended the entire length of this elevation). Fourteen columns, with globe-shaped caps forming eight paired columns under a series of 3-centered semi-elliptical arches, support the roof of the porch. A balustrade with turned balusters extends the length of the porch, which is floored with pine, as is the porch ceiling which is beaded, tongue-and-groove.

The second level of the north elevation contains three one-over-one double-hung windows--one in each room  off that elevation

See continuation sheet

X

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and one above the stairway at the north end of the north-south hallway. On the first level one one-over-one window, a diamond-shaped fixed-pane opening, and a door entering the dining room are present. Extending from the north elevation is a modern porte-cochere, which was designed to lessen its impact on the historic architecture. On the second level of the rear (east) elevation, there are three one-over-one windows--two in the northeast bedroom and one in the southeast bedroom. On the first level of the rear elevation one one-over-one window in the historic portion is present next to the offset 1957 addition. The second level of the south elevation contains two one-over-one double-hung windows--one in the center of the south wall of the southeast bedroom and one on the southwest wall of that room where the ell is formed. Directly below is another one-over-one window where the ell is formed on the first level.

(Historically, a side porch existed off the ell; it was enclosed during the 1957 renovation). The house's only chimney is located on the south wall between the ell and the corner tower.

The McHenry House was originally constructed as a basic side hall plan two rooms deep. Today, the lower floor consists of the entrance hall with stairway, dining room to the rear of the entrance hall, living room adjacent to the entrance hall on the south, den with enclosed offset (1957) to the rear of the living room, and a kitchen and bath addition (1957) attached to the rear (east) of the historic portion of the house. The second floor, constructed by 1901, contains its original configuration: two rooms on either side of a central north-south hallway. Both the living room and the southwest upstairs bedroom open into the corner tower. The original plaster-on-lath interior walls are twelve feet high.

The stairway is an open well, with two flights and one landing, containing open-string stairs with simple brackets. The stair rail consists of a balustrade of turned balusters and a combination of square and turned (on landing) newel posts. Beneath the stairway is a small closet. Like the rest of the interior woodwork, the stairway is natural yellow pine finished with only a wood sealer. Nine inch baseboards of simple trim of the same finish are found throughout the lower level. The interior door and window trim throughout the lower floor is symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks, each of which is inlaid with a "sunburst" motif, as is the mantel and overmantel in the living room. Two nine foot panelled pocket doors on wooden tracks are the most impressive interior features. One five foot door leads from the living room into the dining room, while two two-and-one-half foot doors separate the living room from the entrance hall. All the woodwork on the upper floor is of painted simple trim.

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In addition to the McHenry House, two noncontributing structures are located on the property being nominated: a small building which houses the McHenry post office and a small stable.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration and settlement

Period of Significance

1895-1931

Significant Dates

1895; 1901

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

McHenry, George Austin

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The George Austin McHenry House derives its primary significance from its association with its builder, a prominent early south Mississippi settler in what is now Stone County, who founded the once-flourishing town which bears his name. As the only extant structure associated with George A. McHenry and as the oldest extant building in the town of McHenry, the house takes on added significance. Furthermore, the McHenry House is important as a vernacular expression of late-Victorian architecture.

George Austin McHenry was born in Seneca County, Ohio, on April 13, 1858, the son of Scotch and German immigrants. Educated in the public schools of Ohio and Indiana, he later studied at the University of Michigan and Tulane University. He then practiced pharmacy for several years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he met his future wife, Eunice Estella Whittaker. They were married in Angola, Indiana on September 16, 1881. Their only child, Floyd Whittaker McHenry, was born August 3, 1891. McHenry completed his education at the Louisville (Kentucky) Medical College, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1893 (Dunbar Rowland, ed., Mississippi, Comprising Sketches Of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons In Cyclopedic Form, Vol. 3 [Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907], p. 40); Works Progress Administration, Statewide Historical Research Project (typescript), p. 34).

McHenry migrated to south Mississippi in 1889, bringing with him fifty-four families from the upper Midwest and establishing in the northern portion of Harrison County what was locally known as the "Michigan Settlement." One must assume that McHenry became aware of the opportunities in that region while a student several years earlier at Tulane University in nearby New Orleans. In any case, the

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settlement stood geographically in the midst of the vast virgin yellow pine forest on the eve of the south Mississippi lumber boom that would cause the town of McHenry to flourish. The McHenry House itself reflects the historical context of the period in which the settlers arrived. It was, in fact, built almost exclusively from virgin yellow pine harvested from the 164 acres McHenry homesteaded upon his arrival in Mississippi (the original homestead was situated approximately two miles east of the house's location). Originally known as Niles City or Niles Station, the community's name was changed because another post office in the state bore the same name, and the town of McHenry was subsequently incorporated in 1902 (WPA, p. 35; John H. Lang, The History Of Harrison County [Gulfport, Mississippi: The Dixie Press, 1936], p. 34; Dolores McHenry Mauldin, granddaughter of George A. McHenry, interviewed by Robert J. Bailey, Historic Preservation Consultant, Gulfport, Mississippi, at McHenry, Mississippi, May 24, 1988).

George A. McHenry's influence in the new town extended beyond its establishment, despite his years away studying medicine and serving his country. His decision to come to Mississippi in the first place was based on the opportunities presented by the fledgling lumber business. The Gulf and Ship Island Railroad, chartered before the Civil War to provide an artery for lumber transport between Jackson and the Gulf Coast, was not begun until the early 1890's. By the end of 1896, the railroad was completed between Hattiesburg and Gulfport, and a decade later 293,000,000 feet of lumber was being shipped from Gulfport, making it the largest lumber export city in the United States. Concurrently, McHenry thrived as one of several lumber towns along the Gulf and Ship Island line.

The Chicago Coal and Lumber Company opened a large planing mill there, and a shingle mill, turning mill, and turpentine distillery soon followed. Logically, McHenry quickly became a trading and social center for the area. A bank, a general store, two hotels, six churches, two drugstores, two livery stables, several saloons, a school, and several fraternal lodges were built (WPA, pp. 35-37; Mauldin). Because virtually none of these tangible remnants of the town exists today, the McHenry House takes on added importance. Because the depletion of virgin yellow pine had ended the area's role in the world lumber industry by the 1920's, the house is not only symbolic of the town's most prosperous period, it is the best example of historic architecture left.

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Still, McHenry thrived for almost three decades and George A. McHenry remained throughout his life its most important citizen. After opening a general store (which also served as a post office) soon after his arrival, he subsequently established the McHenry Drug Company, co-owned the Majestic Hotel, practiced medicine, served as a director of the McHenry State Bank, and served as vice president of the McHenry Improvement Company (an organization similar to modern chambers of commerce). He and his wife started the town's first newspaper, though little is known of its operation and no issues are known to exist today. His interest in medicine led him to purchase and promote Ramsay Springs several miles east of McHenry, the waters from which were believed to have inhibitory effects on certain diseases. Ramsay Springs and the hotel there remained a popular resort well into the 1950s. McHenry was also involved in local government, leading a decade-long battle to stop the creation of Stone County in 1916 out of portions of Forrest, Harrison, George and Perry Counties. Though unsuccessful, he maintained that McHenry would benefit more from Harrison County's larger tax base and promising future. Ironically, his son was one day elected to serve as chancery clerk of the county whose creation he had tried to stop. McHenry also assisted in the improvement of the Old Spanish Trail, which would eventually become the major east-west artery across the southern United States (U. S. Highway 90 from Jacksonville, Florida to Van Horn, Texas; then U. S. Highway 80 from Van Horn to San Diego, California). (Kat Bergeron, "Painful Labor but Successful Birth," The Sun Herald, May 11, 1986, p. 12; Mauldin; WPA, p. 37).

George A. McHenry's service with the United States Army began at the outbreak of the Spanish American War. In August, 1898, he was sent to Santiago, Cuba as contract surgeon. At the end of the Battle of Santiago (July 3, 1898), which ended Spanish domination in Cuba, McHenry was present at the ceremony replacing the Spanish flag with the American flag at the Governor's Palace. After hostilities with Spain ended, he remained in Cuba as a contract surgeon until February, 1901, when President William McKinley appointed him assistant surgeon of the United States Volunteers with the rank of captain. He was then put in charge of the Yellow Fever Hospital in Santiago, a disease on which he was considered an expert. He also served as a surgeon at military bases in Matanzas and Havana. In August, 1902, he was sent to the Philippines, where he served aboard ship and in Manila. He returned to the United States in November, 1902, and was

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honorably discharged from the Army on New Year's Eve, 1902. McHenry's military career had a direct, though at the time unforeseen, bearing on south Mississippi. The establishment of Camp Shelby prior to America's entry into World War I was due in large part to McHenry's influence with General Leonard A. Wood, a Spanish American War friend and colleague. The cause was also helped by the fact that McHenry and Vice President Thomas Riley Marshall's wife had been schoolmates in Ohio. Camp Shelby would later become Mississippi's premier military installation consisting of over 300,000 acres. ("Declaration for Pension," George A. McHenry, June 21, 1920; Pat Scott, "McHenry: One Man's Legacy," The Daily Herald, January 15, 1972, p. 4; Rowland, p. 41; WPA, p. 36).

While not possessing all the classic elements of the Queen Anne style, the McHenry House offers perhaps the best vernacular expression of this style in Stone County. Its numerous gable projections, asymmetrical plan, and high multiple roofs are common to the style. Built in 1895 as a one-story structure, the house was added to until the completion of the second story in 1901. Constructed almost exclusively of local virgin yellow pine, the house is a virtual "built" testimony to the era in which it was constructed. Owned and occupied today by McHenry's granddaughter and her husband, Dolores McHenry Mauldin and William S. Mauldin, Jr., the McHenry House has been adapted carefully to modern living and retains much of its original integrity.



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Bergeron, Kat. "Painful Labor but Successful Birth." The Sun Herald, Biloxi, MS, May 11, 1986.
- Mauldin, Dolores McHenry, granddaughter of Dr. George A. McHenry, and Mauldin, William S., Jr. Interviewed by Robert J. Bailey, Historic Preservation Consultant, Gulfport, Mississippi, at McHenry, Mississippi, May 24, 1988.
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Stone County. McHenry.
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Works Progress Administration, Statewide Historical Research Project (typescript), Stone County, 1936.
- Lang, John H. The History of Harrison County, Gulfport, Mississippi: The Dixie Press, 1936.

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

Specify repository:

Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1.25 Acres

UTM References

A 16 295220 3399020  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Entire Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, all in Block Seven, Hemphill and Hamilton Survey of McHenry, Mississippi (See Attachment 1).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes 1.25 acres historically associated with this property. This parcel is presently owned by the current occupants of the McHenry House.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robert J. Bailey  
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date August 2, 1988  
street & number 914 Wanda Place telephone (601) 868-7157  
city or town Gulfport state Mississippi zip code 39501

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Reber, Elmer C. "McHenry Settlement School," Stone County  
(Mississippi) Enterprise, January 27, 1949.

Rowland, Dunbar, ed., Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of  
Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons, Arranged  
in Cyclopedic Form (Vol. 3). Atlanta: Southern Historical  
Publishing Association, 1907.

Scott, Pat. "McHenry: One Man's Legacy." The Daily Herald,  
Biloxi, Gulfport, MS, January 15, 1972.

Stone County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. "The Hemphill  
and Hamilton Survey of Niles City, Mississippi, 1896."

United States. Department of Interior. Bureau of Pensions,  
"Declaration for Pension," George A. McHenry, June 21,  
1920.

United States. General Land Office. Homestead Certificate  
No. 10050, November 11, 1895.

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McHenry, George Austin, House; McHenry, Stone County, Mississippi

Photographs

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) McHenry, George Austin, House
- (2) McHenry, Stone County, Mississippi
- (3) Robert J. Bailey
- (4) May 1988
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1 -- (6) View of front (west) facade, view to east

Photo 2 -- (6) View of south elevation, view to north

Photo 3 -- (6) View of rear (east) elevation, view to west

Photo 4 -- (6) View of north elevation, view to south



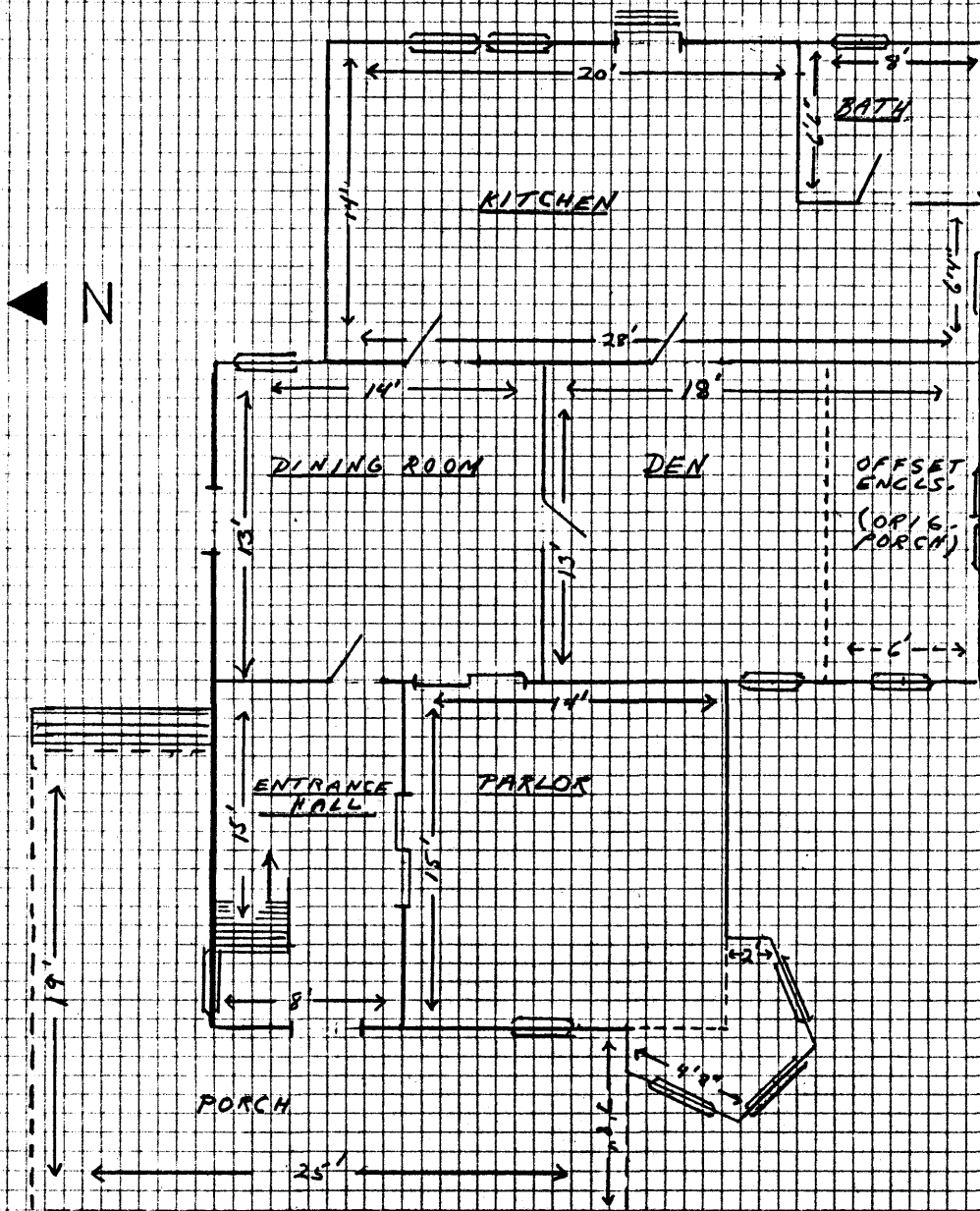
RESIDENCE OF DR. G. A. MCHENRY, MCHENRY, MISS.

85

MCHENRY HOUSE

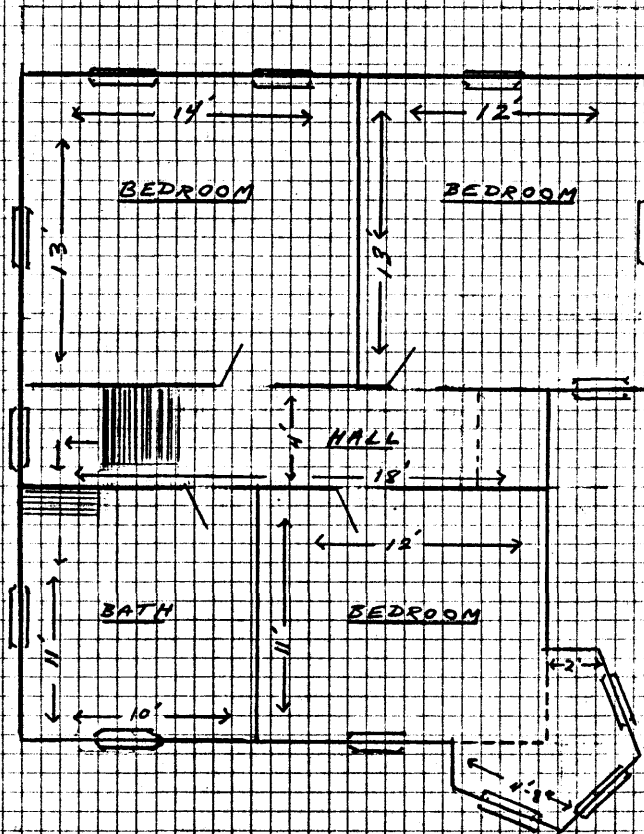
AS IT APPEARED IN 1903

MCHENRY, GEORGE AUSTIN, HOUSE  
LOWER FLOOR



1/8" = 1'

MCHENRY, GEORGE AUSTIN, HOUSE  
UPPER FLOOR



1/8" = 1'

Plat of Miles City in Sec. 12, T. 4 S. R. 12 E.

Harrison Co. Mississippi, Surveyed

by hand. 1896.

R. Herman Hemphill  
Surveyor.  
M. Hemphill, Owner.  
Fannie B. Hamilton  
By J. S. Hamilton  
Atty. in fact.

THE  
HEMPHILL and HAMILTON

Survey of  
MILES CITY.

The State of Mississippi  
Harrison Co.

Personally appeared before  
F. S. Hewes, Clerk of the Chancery  
of the County of Harrison, the  
Surveyor, R. Herman Hemphill, and M  
who each acknowledged that they  
foregoing Plan.

Given under my hand & official  
this 28th day of May A. D. 1896.

(Seal)  
F. S. Hewes

The State of Mississippi  
Harrison County

Personally appeared before  
Clerk of the Chancery Court of  
Harrison, the above named Fannie B  
by J. S. Hamilton, her Atty. in fact,  
edged that as such attorney he al  
foregoing Plan.

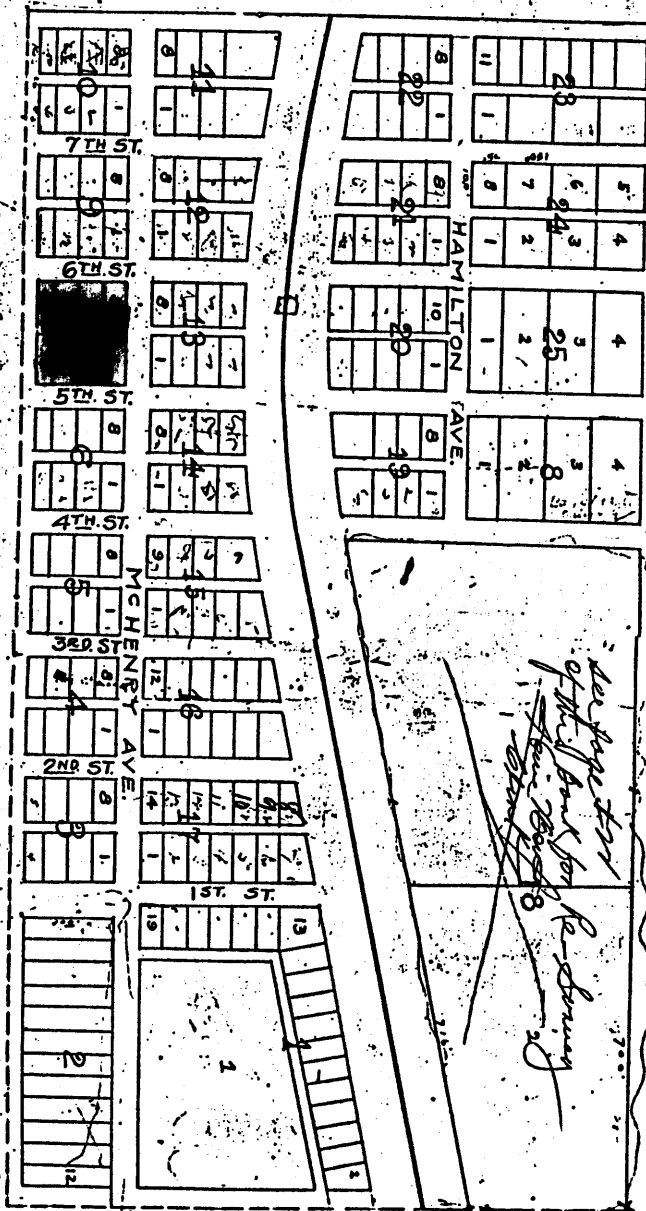
Given under my hand & official  
this 6th day of June A. D. 1896.

(Seal)  
F. S. Hewes

We hereby certify that we have  
compared this duplicate with the  
plat of Miles City Miss. and that  
exact duplicate thereof.

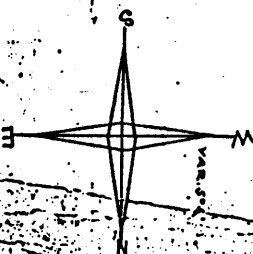
R. Herman Hemphill,  
F. S. Hewes, Clerk,  
Chancery C  
Harrison

Filed & recorded June 6th. 1896  
Book No. 1, Page  
F. S. Hewes



ATTACHMENT 1

SCALE 100 FT.



We certify that this has been carefully compared with, and true and correct copy of the Hemphill and Hamilton Survey of City, Mississippi, as appears of record at page 6, Plat Book No. 1 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Harrison County, Miss. Witness the signature of Brans & Bufkin, Transcribers, on 27th day of March, A. D. 1917.

Brans & Bufkin  
By *F. L. Brans*  
By *W. H. Bufkin*

57  
19