



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, West Commerce Street Historic District, reference number 88000128 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 04/19/1988, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of 04/29/1988. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common West Commerce Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number 721-919 W. Commerce St.; 730-900 W. Commerce St. N/A not for publication

city, town Aberdeen N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Monroe code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number N/A

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chancery Clerk Building

street & number 201 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen state MS 39730

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The W. Commerce Street Historic District encompasses a residential area consisting of fifteen houses and, in some instances, their outbuildings, dating between 1840 and 1938. These properties are located on both sides of W. Commerce Street, which is the primary east-west route through the town.

This portion of W. Commerce Street, despite its name, is overwhelmingly residential in character. At the district's easternmost section (in front of 721, 727 and 730 W. Commerce), the street descends a small hill. Small embankments that are only a few feet high line the street, dividing it from the sidewalks and the houses beyond. Mature shade trees protect this section of the district from the summer sun. As one proceeds west along W. Commerce Street, such trees become more sparse, but all of the properties have well-manicured lawns shaded by indigenous trees.

Two of Aberdeen's finest examples of antebellum residential architecture -- the Dr. William Alfred Sykes House (1850) and the Reuben Davis House (also known as Sunset Hill, 1847/1853) -- are located in this district. The latter is already listed individually in the National Register. The Dr. William Alfred Sykes House now houses the Aberdeen - South Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. Its antebellum kitchen and well house remain. The other three antebellum houses -- the Mark Prewett House (721 W. Commerce), the Col. Abner Prewett House (730 W. Commerce) and the John Goodwin House (806 W. Commerce)-- were more modest residences and have been extensively altered through the years. Two properties, both at the western edge of the district, date from the late nineteenth century -- the Andrew J. Brown House, a Free Classic Queen Anne house at 915 W. Commerce and The Castle, a Gothic Revival idiosyncrasy at 919 W. Commerce. The remaining six houses date from c. 1900 to 1938 and represent a variety of styles.

Inventory of Buildings

W. COMMERCE STREET

1. 721. Mark Prewett House (Panola). Originally a two story house with side gables. A full-width gallery with panelled box columns, a panelled frieze and a panelled parapet graced the front facade until the mid-1930's. Today, the house is a one-and-one-half story, five by two bay structure with side gables accented by returns. The central, front portico has paired, panelled box columns supporting a gable roof, which is set perpendicular to the main roof ridge, with a full entablature and a pedimented gable. The frontispiece consists of double doors with round-arched panels, central circular panels and bottom, somewhat rectangular panels, sidelights, fluted pilasters

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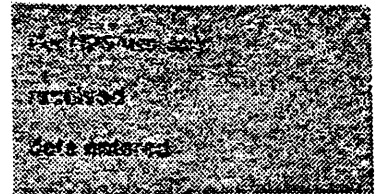
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and transom. Many of the windows are nine-over-nine, double hung sash with molded surrounds. A sun porch has been added to the west elevation and on the east elevation, towards the rear, is a shed-roofed wing. Greek Revival. 1840. (MN)

- 2a. 727. Charlie Clark House. A one-and-one-half story, three by two bay, brick veneered house with a steeply pitched gable roof. The front central bay contains a small stoop with a single leaf, panelled door accented by a jack arch and louvred shutters. Each of the flanking bays contains a nine-over-nine, double hung sash window with a brick slipsill, a jack arch and louvred shutters. A dentilled frieze spans the front facade. On the roof, positioned above this door and these windows, are three dormers -- each features a six-over-six, double hung sash window, a pedimented gable, and diagonally laid boards cladding its sides. On the east elevation is an exterior, shouldered, brick chimney. The rear elevation has an enclosed porch with jalousie windows. Georgian Revival. Ca. 1935. (C)
- 2b. 727. Garage. This two story, double car, frame garage repeats the stylistic influence of the main house. Its side-gabled roof is accented by two dormers positioned above the segmental arched garage doors. Georgian Revival. Ca. 1935. (C)
3. 729. House. A two-and-one-half story, three by three bay, roughly L-shaped, frame house has a complex roof marked by shed-roofed dormers and rests on a high, stuccoed foundation. The front facade's easternmost bay projects out slightly and has a hip roof. Extending west from this bay is a porch which projects beyond the side of the house and becomes a porte-cochere. The whole is covered by a truncated hip roof. The porch features Doric columns grouped in pairs or triads, and the porte-cochere terminates at a stuccoed parapet supporting two pairs of Doric columns. On the east elevation, towards the front, is a sun porch with banks of floor-to-ceiling, multi-light windows, multi-light transoms, and a truncated hip roof. The northernmost bay of the west elevation projects beyond the elevation and contains an exterior chimney bisecting a gable with a pent roof. On the southwest corner of the house is a second story sleeping porch with banks of casement windows and below it, on the first story, is another porch enclosed by lattice work and some clapboarding. A new wooden deck spans the rear elevation and wraps around the east facade until it reaches the sun porch. Most of the windows are one-over-one, double hung sash. Colonial Revival influence. Ca. 1915. (C)

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4. 730. Col. Abner Prewett House (Prewett Place). Two-and-one-half story, five by two bay, frame house with a side-gabled roof with returns. On the front facade, a one story, full-width porch with low brick pedestals supporting panelled box columns is bisected by a two story portico with paired box columns on pedestals supporting a pedimented gable. A small porch is located on the second story of the portico. An entablature with a modillioned frieze extends across the front facade. The frontispiece features sidelights and a transom. The first floor, front windows are one-over-one, double hung sash and extend from floor to ceiling. The second story, front windows are six-over-six, double hung sash with molded surrounds and bull's eye corner blocks. The front corners of the house are accented by molded endboards. On the west elevation, a one story sun porch with banks of multi-light windows has been added. A two story sleeping porch was added onto the east elevation. On the eastern side of the rear elevation is a two story, one room deep wing. In the ell created by this wing is a one story addition (or an enclosed porch) with a small addition above it. Greek Revival. 1840. (C)
- 5a. Dr. William Alfred Sykes House (The Magnolias). A two story, five by four bay, frame house crowned by a full entablature and a panelled parapet. The two story, full-width, front gallery features panelled box columns (paired box columns flank the steps) and pilasters with capitals. The first floor frontispiece consists of panelled double doors surrounded by multi-light, colored glass sidelights and transom. The heavily molded architrave trim and transom bar have bull's eye corner blocks. The whole is surrounded by an eared surround. Above this frontispiece is a balcony with a "sheaves of wheat" balustrade and a double door entrance with sidelights and a transom featuring decorative muntins enclosed in an eared surround. The majority of windows are six-over-six, double hung sash with lugsills, molded surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks and louvred shutters. Greek Revival. 1850. (P) 732 W. Commerce
- 5b. Dr. William Alfred Sykes House. Kitchen. A one-room, one story, brick building with a side-gabled roof. The roof has a plain box cornice along the eaves and closed verges in the gables. The front facade displays a panelled wood door and a six-over-six, double hung sash window with louvred shutters. Vernacular. 1850 (C)
- 5c. Dr. Willian Alfred Sykes House. Well House. One story, gable-roofed, brick building that is one room deep. The gable

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roof extends beyond the north elevation to protect the well and is supported by brick columns. The roof has a plain boxed cornice and closed verges. Vernacular. 1850. (C)

- 5d. Dr. William Alfred Sykes House. Outbuilding. This small, one story, gable-roofed building is constructed of concrete block and corrugated fiberglass. Although obviously a modern structure, the building is so nondescript that it is difficult to determine a date of construction. (NC)
6. 803. Reuben Davis House (Sunset Hill). This two story, frame, central hall plan house features a front portico with eight massive fluted Doric columns. The narrower intercolumniation of the two end bays corresponds to the two recessed side galleries and thus emphasizes the three center bays. Panelled pilasters further articulate the five front bays and two of these pilasters flank the central frontispiece, the design of which was inspired by Plate 28 of Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter. The portico has a low pitched, metal-seamed, hip roof that is perpendicular to twin hip-roof extensions of the main block of the house. Greek Revival. 1847/1853. (P)
7. 800. House. A one-and-one-half story, clapboarded house crowned by a side-gabled roof. Set into the eastern gable is a sun porch which has been enclosed. The front facade features two dormers and also a central door flanked by windows. Bungalow influence. Ca. 1945. (NC)
8. 807. House. A one story, three by four bay bungalow resting on a brick foundation and clad in wood shingle siding. The house has a complex, multi-gabled roof. The front three bays are separated by brick piers. The flat roof with exposed rafter ends that spans the front facade covers a small porch area in the ell created by the gables and then extends west, supported on brick pillars, to create a porte-cochere. On the east elevation is an exterior, battered, brick chimney. Bungalow. Ca. 1925. (C)
9. 806. John Goodwin House. A one story, five by one bay, stuccoed brick house with a low hip roof accented by two low-pitched gables on the front elevation. The front porch has simple box columns and pilasters supporting a low hip roof with exposed rafter ends. The centered frontispiece consists of double doors with large lights flanked by single light sidelights with panelling beneath them, a single light transom with corner lights and a battered, eared surround. On the rear elevation is a frame wing with a broken sloped gable roof that projects out

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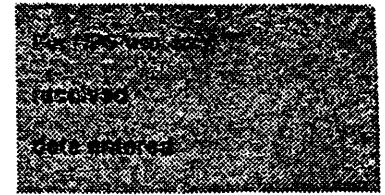
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over an enclosed porch. Greek Revival. Ca. 1845. (MN)

10. 810. House. A one-and-one-half story, four by three bay house resting on brick piers with brick infill and crowned by a hip roof (whose roof ridge runs parallel to the street) pierced by gables. The gables feature imbricated shingles, attic windows with decorative muntins and decorative scrollwork in their peaks. The wraparound front porch has box columns and a dentilled frieze. Located within the porch area is a single-leaf door flanked by sidelights with panelling beneath them and capped by a transom with corner lights. On either side of this frontispiece is a wide, three-sided bay with a large window crowned by a transom with decorative muntins. On the west (side) facade, the porch was enclosed to create a sun porch. The east (side) facade has a polygonal bay capped by a gable. A fairly modern addition and a deck have been added to the north (rear) elevation. Free Classic Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. (C)
11. 900. H. B. Sanders House (Point of View). A two story, three by three bay, frame bungalow with a large gable roof that sweeps out over the full-width, front porch where it is supported on squat box columns resting on brick pedestals. Running between the pedestals is a brick parapet. The front half of the roof is dominated by a huge gable-roofed dormer. The entrance located within the porch area consists of a single-leaf, panelled door flanked by sidelights with panelling and crowned by an elliptically shaped fanlight. An undercut porch with elements similar to those on the front porch is nestled at the northeast corner of the house. The first story of the east (side) elevation is clad in narrow clapboard and the upper story or gable is sheathed in wider clapboard. The other side (west) elevation features an early, one story, shed roofed addition with a screened-in porch. Bungalow. 1905. (C)
12. 901. House. A rambling, one-and-one-half story, brick ranch style house with a side-gabled roof. The front facade features a door set off-center with three long narrow windows to its side and seven similar windows to its west. A front wing has a gable roof set perpendicular to the main roof ridge. Ranch style. Ca. 1955. (NC)
13. 905. House. One-and-one-half story, five bay wide, brick house with a side gabled roof. On the front facade, a gable roofed wing set perpendicular to the main roof ridge contains a recessed entrance. Next to this entrance is a small gable roofed wing jutting out from the larger wing. 1938. (NC)

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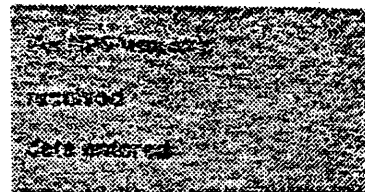
- 14a. 915. The Andrew J. Brown House (The Oaks). One-and-one-half story, three by four bay, frame house has a rusticated concrete block foundation and a truncated hip roof covered in embossed metal shingles. The roof displays several gable-roofed dormers. On the front facade, in the westernmost bay is a projecting bay with a gable roof. A wraparound porch with paired; slender Ionic columns begins at this bay and terminates at a projecting bay on the east (side) elevation. Over the porch steps, a gable clad in imbricated, diamond-shaped shingles juts out from the porch's shed roof. A shed-roofed wing covered in composite board is on the rear (south) elevation. Free Classic Queen Anne. 1887. (C)
- 14b. 915. The Andrew J. Brown House. Garage. A one-story, frame building with a pyramidal roof sheathed in embossed metal shingles. A carport-type structure extends out from the west (side) elevation. Vernacular. Ca. 1905. (C)
- 14c. 915. The Andrew J. Brown House. Gazebo. A multi-sided, wooden structure displaying latticework and segmental arched openings that are "closed off" by a picket fence type treatment. The steep, multi-sided roof is sheathed in shingles. Vernacular. Ca. 1905. (C)
15. 919. The Castle. One-and-one-half story, four by two bay, frame house with a gable roof. The house's northeast corner is marked by a one-and-one-half story polygonal tower which has a multi-sided roof and flares out slightly just above its foundation. A bungalow-style porch extends across the rest of the front facade. Its hip roof is supported by pairs and triads of box columns resting on brick pedestals. This porch is an alteration dating from 1937. Located within the porch area is a single-leaf door topped by an elliptical fanlight with a Gothic Revival drip mold and flanked by sidelights with panelling beneath them and a polygonal bay with narrow windows crowned by Gothic Revival drip molds. To the rear of the west (side) elevation a sun porch with a bank of very narrow windows has been added. On the rear elevation, a gable-roofed, one story wing connects the house to a board-and-batten building with a side-gabled roof and a full-width porch. Gothic Revival. Ca. 1885/1937. (C)

Nominated Properties
1 district

Contributing Elements
14 buildings
1 structure

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The properties included within this district have been rated as contributing or non-contributing according to the following rating system:

Contributing Elements

- P - Pivotally Contributing - These properties are of major importance in establishing the character of the district, and would be individually eligible for the National Register if they were not elements of a district.
- C - Contributing - These properties date from the period of significance of the district and possess sufficient integrity to contribute appreciably to its sense of time and place or its architectural or thematic character.

Non-Contributing Elements

- MN - Marginally Non-Contributing - These properties date from the period of significance of the district but have suffered substantial and irreversible impairments to their integrity. They are considered non-contributing in their present state.
- NC - Non-Contributing - These properties do not contribute to the character of the district because their architectural character dates from later than the period of significance of the district or, in the case of a thematically-defined district, they do not contribute to the district's thematic character. Although these properties do not contribute to the district, they are nonetheless relatively compatible with the rest of the district in terms of scale, materials, massing, and setting.
- I - Intrusive - These properties disrupt the visual cohesiveness of the district by being incompatible in design, scale, materials, massing, and/or setting.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1840 - ca. 1935 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The W. Commerce Street Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The construction dates of the contributing elements comprising this district extend from 1840 to c. 1935. The elements are representative of the architectural styles that were popular during Aberdeen's two greatest periods of prosperity -- the late 1840s to 1850s and 1880 to c. 1930. In this particular district, judging from the architectural styles, no construction was undertaken between the years 1860 to 1885. Furthermore, the district is a good example of how housing developed in Aberdeen with the large estates of the antebellum period being subdivided into smaller lots to accommodate new housing. This trend began in Aberdeen just after Reconstruction and continued beyond the middle of the twentieth century.

Included within the district are several locally significant examples of various architectural styles. Among the antebellum examples of Greek Revival architecture are the Reuben Davis House (listed in the National Register in 1978) and the Dr. William Alfred Sykes House. The Dr. William Alfred Sykes House takes on added significance because it retains two of its original outbuildings, the kitchen and the well house. The Castle, despite its alterations, is a significant late nineteenth-century local interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. One of the most academically correct and sophisticated residential examples of the Georgian Revival style of architecture in Aberdeen is the Charlie Clark House at 727 W. Commerce Street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 50 acres

Quadrangle name Aberdeen, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

I

1	6	3	5	5	7	6	0	3	7	4	3	6	9	0
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E

1	6	3	5	6	1	0	0	3	7	4	3	9	6	0
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G

1	6	3	5	6	2	8	0	3	7	4	3	4	7	0
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B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

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F

1	6	3	5	6	2	8	5	3	7	4	3	9	5	0
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H

1	6	3	5	5	7	6	5	3	7	4	3	4	8	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler - Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History date September 1987

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state MS 39205

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 6, 1988

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

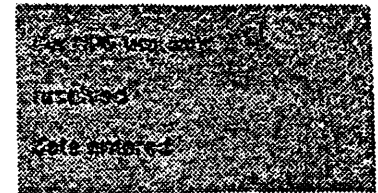
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The W. Commerce Street Historic District is bisected from east to west by W. Commerce Street. Beginning at the northeast corner of 730 W. Commerce, the district boundary heads south along the eastern edge of this property, crosses W. Commerce Street and continues south along the eastern boundary of 721 W. Commerce Street. At the southeast corner of this property the district boundary turns west and follows the southern property lines of the nine houses on the south side of W. Commerce Street until it reaches the southwest corner of The Castle's property at 919 W. Commerce. At this point, the district boundary heads north along the western property line of 919 W. Commerce and then turns east, running down the middle of W. Commerce Street. The district boundary then turns north and heads up the western edge of the property at 900 W. Commerce. The district boundary turns east at the northwest corner of this property and follows the northern property lines of the six residences on the north side of W. Commerce Street until it reaches its point of beginning at the northeast corner of 730 W. Commerce. The historic district is only one property deep on each side of the street and owes its irregular shape to the varying depths of the properties involved.

