

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Judge John William Kyle Law Office

historic _____

and/or common K le-Short Law Officey

2. Location

street & number 147 S. Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Sardis _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1st.

state Mississippi code 28 county Panola code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	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 type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert M.P. Short

street & number P.O.Box 371

city, town Sardis _____ vicinity of _____ state Miss.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Panola County Courthouse / Chancery Clerk.

street & number _____

city, town Sardis, Mississippi. state _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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

The Judge Kyle Law Office situated at 147 S. Main Street in downtown Sardis is constructed of narrow clapboards. It is one room wide and two rooms deep. The high narrow ends of the gable facade are relieved by horizontal line of the low shallow hip roof of the full width front porch. Rising from the concrete floor are three posts with turned center sections, echoed at front corners by two matching half posts. The posts support the plane wide frieze which is set beneath box cornice upper eaves.

The two bay facade contains a door and window which is repeated on the rear elevation. The front window, like all the other windows, is double-hung sash, one-over-one, and is trimmed with wood shutters. Each side wall is broken by two windows, set well upon rear gable end. The rear elevation similar to the facade consists of a shed roof and a wood floor on brick piers.

The two interior rooms are separated by a bathroom. The front room, the receiving area, is 11 feet x 15 feet, while the rear office is 15 feet x 15 feet. The rear back office was damaged by fire in 1979. The wainscoting was replaced with double beaded vertical boards which came from another building that was being raised. The metal roof had to be replaced. However, the stove flue was not reinstalled.

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 checked="" 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 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 ca 1882 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Judge Kyle Law Office has important historic significance for the town of Sardis because of its association with the influential Kyle family. Also, the law office is one of the few frame nineteenth century building to be utilized commercially.

Local tradition maintains that the first occupant of the building was Dr. Morgan Adams (1834-1906). He acquired the property in 1882 (Deed Bk. A-3, p. 124). Dr. Adams was elected president of the Mississippi Dental Association in 1886, and is noted for his articles published in many dental journals. He sold the property in 1903. It changed ownership often until 1919 when Judge Kyle purchased the property. The building was utilized by Judge Kyle as a law office until his death in 1965.

The Kyle family has contributed much to the political history of the State of Mississippi. Judge Kyle's father, Albert Kyle served in the Mississippi Legislature for twenty years and his uncle John C. Kyle served in the U.S. Congress. The political career of John William Kyle is most impressive. He served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Mississippi from 1950 through 1963, and as Presiding Justice from the latter date until his death on May 3, 1965. He was a native of Panola County. He received his law degree in 1912. He was a Rhodes Scholar and studied at Oxford University in England.

He began practicing law in Sardis in 1915. He served as attorney for the Board Supervisors of Panola County. He served in the Mississippi State Senate from 1928 until 1950, when he resigned to become Attorney General. As senator he was chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee for eleven years. Local tradition maintains that he lent his name to a poverty-stricken Mississippi so the state could borrow money to buy stamps to mail tax statements. He was instrumental in passage of the 1932 sales tax, which was a prime factor in providing sufficient revenue for the state to put it on a sound financial basis. Early in his career in 1920 he served as Mayor of Sardis. A state park was named in his honor.

The law office has been restored by the present owner Robert M.P. Short an attorney. Mr. Short has insured the preservation of the building by restoring the two room office as his law office.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"In Memoriam, Mr. Justice John William Kyle." Adopted at Memorial Services, Ms. Supreme Court Minutes, September 13, 1965.
 Personal Inspection, Clinton I. Bagley, January, 26, 1980
 See continuationa Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Sardis, Miss. Quadrangle scale 1.62506

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>38</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached plat map

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clinton I. Bagley, Research Consultant
 organization P.O.Box 1332 date May 10, 1980
 street & number _____ telephone 601 332-7956/334-4715
 city or town Greenville, Miss. state Miss.

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Edward R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 26, 1980

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Juce date 7/29/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Carol Dubois date 7/21/80
 Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 5 1980

DATE ENTERED

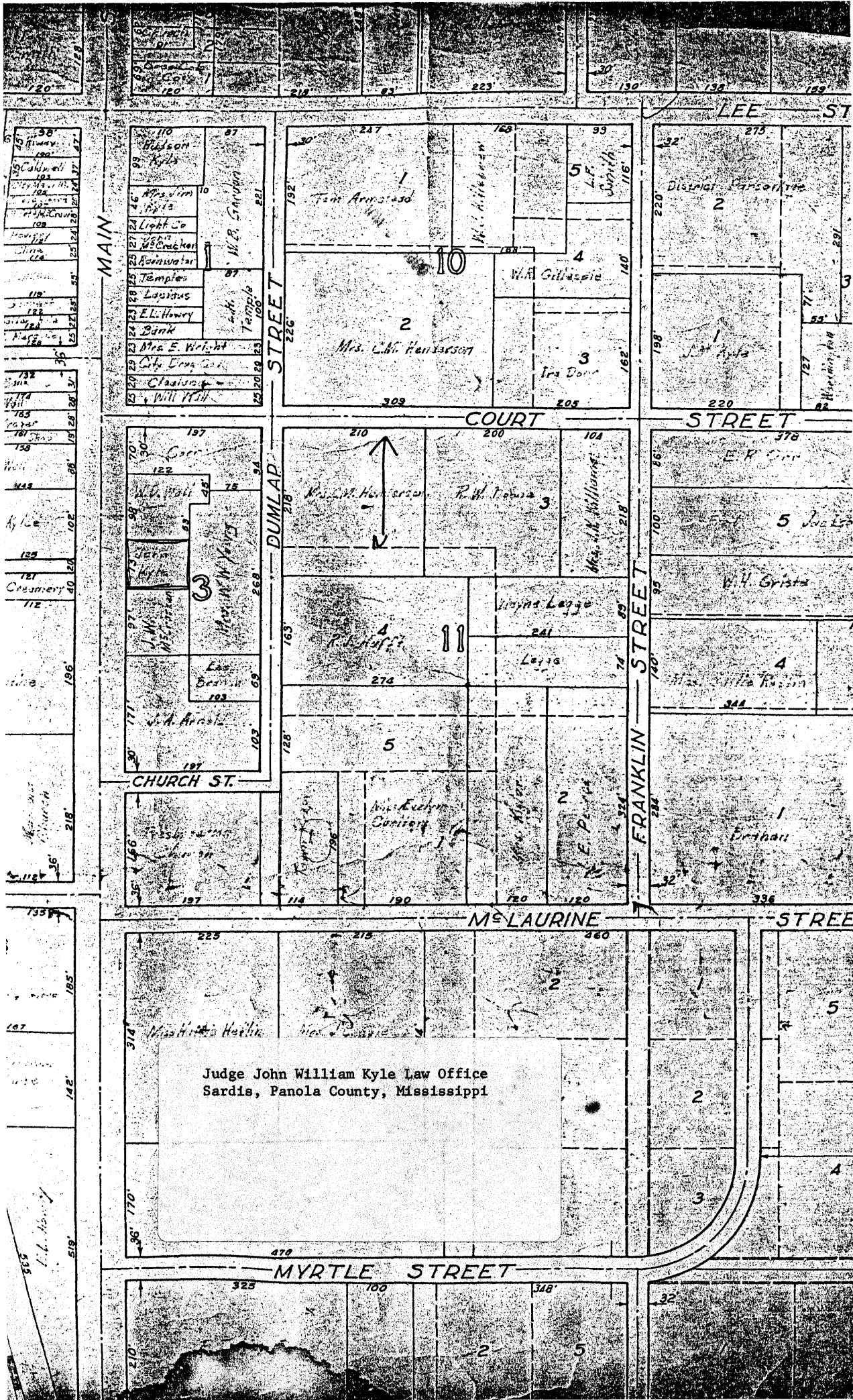
JUL 27 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Panola County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books A-3,A-15.

Southern Reporter, Sardis, Ms., July 25, 1886, and Nov. 2, 1906.



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Judge John William Kyle Law Office
Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi