National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Type all entries	s—complete applicat	ne sections			
1. Nam	ne				
historic Fron	t Street Historia	: District			
and/or common	N/A				
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	2810, 2816, 290)5, 2914, 2916	Front Str	eet 1	√A not for publication
city, town Pa	ascagoula	N/A vic	inity of		
state Missis	ssippi	code 28	county _J	ackson	code 59
3. Clas	sification				
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considere		upied n progress e stricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	erty			٠
name Multij	ple Ownership	į			
street & number	N/A				
city, town N	/ A	vio	cinity of	state	
-	ation of Le			n	
	stry of deeds, etc.	Office of th	e Chancery	Clerk	
street & number	Magnolia St	reet			
city, town	Pascagoula			state	Mississippi
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Exis	iting S	urveys	
title Statewide	e Survey of Histo	ric Sites	has this prope	erty been determined el	ligible? yes _X_ no
date 1983				federal X sta	te county local
depository for su	urvey records Mis	sissippi Depa	rtment of,	Archives and Hist	ory
city, town	Jackson			etato	Mississippi
J., 10111				State	11TO 0 TO 0 T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T D D T

7. Description

Condition

deteriorated

Check one _ unaltered Check one

excellent good ruins X fair _ unexposed

X altered

_ original site date Ca. 1889 (Denny House) moved

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Geographically, the City of Pascagoula (population approximately 38,000) is located in southern Mississippi on the Gulf Coast, in the southeast corner of Jackson County, roughly one hundred miles east of New Orleans and thirty-five miles west of Mobile, Alabama. It is primarily known for shipbuilding, fishing, oil refining, port activities, and the "Singing River."

Known in legend as the "Singing River," the Pascagoula, at certain points in its course near the Gulf, produces a humming sound. It is thought that water flowing over rock formations in its bed produces the phenomenon. However, tradition holds that the sound is produced by the singing of the spirits of the Pascagoula Indians, who, when confronted with massacre by the neighboring Biloxi Indians, drowned themselves to avoid defeat (Cyril E. Cain, Four Centuries on the Pascagoula [n.p., 1953], vol. I, pp. 113-119).

Although the five houses of the Front Street Historic District comprise only a minute part of Pascagoula's resources, they represent the largest contiguous collection of nineteenth-century residences surviving in the community. district boundaries were drawn around a two-block area which includes only these The houses are all in fair to good condition and most have been altered only slightly through the years.

The physical appearance of the district is a deteriorated one from that of one hundred years ago; this is evidenced by the remains of a fountain in front of one house (the Frank Lewis House), cracked sidewalks, and the lack of ornamental planting, shrubs, etc., although large live oak, pecan, and magnolia trees abound in the area and most of the yards are reasonably well kept. Two of the houses (the Walter Denny House and the Frank Lewis House) are in need of paint; however, each of the buildings is structurally sound, and each contributes to the architectural significance of the historic district.

The Front Street Historic District visually reflects the major trends of Pascagoula's nineteenth-century residential architectural development. The Walter Denny House (ca. 1820) and the Dupont-Pelham House (ca. 1836) represent early manifestations of Gulf Coast Greek Revival style and combine several features derived from colonial era Creole construction techniques, such as wide, low galleries, numerous windows and doors opening onto the galleries, and high foundation piers. The Frank Lewis House (ca. 1889) is an excellent illustration of the tenaciousness with which this vernacular Grecian form, which was so well suited to the hot, humid climate, persisted and continued to flourish, even though the style had virtually disappeared in new construction elsewhere. The John B. Delmas House (ca. 1850) is exemplary of the more stately and formal version of Greek Revival popular during the mid-nineteenth century. Representing latenineteenth-century design is the Charles B. Delmas House (ca. 1890-1910) which originally possessed a two-tier portico supported on turned posts (four of which remain) and ornamented by delicate scroll brackets and turned balusters. (See continuation sheets for inventory of buildings.)

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form Front Street Historic District

Jackson County, Continuation sheet Mississippi

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7 - DESCRIPTION

INVENTORY

Front Street

- (Walter Denny House). One-and-a-half-story, frame residence with gable 1. 2810. roof. Full-width undercut front gallery has chamfered posts with balustrade all around. Windows (floor-length on facade) and entrance have operable shutters with transom above double doors. Moved approximately fifty feet west in 1888 for construction of Lewis House. 1820s
- (Frank Lewis House). One-and-a-half-story, gable-roof, frame residence. 2. Three fully pedimented dormers across front. Screened front porch has chamfered posts with molded capitals and a simple balustrade. Double-leaf entrance doors have round-arched glass panels with transom above. Facade windows are floorlength six-over-nine double-hung sash. Ca. 1889
- (Dupont/Pelham House). One-and-a-half-story, gable-roof, frame residence 3. (now used as a boarding house) with front and rear shed-roof dormers running nearly the full length of the building. Gallery extends across front and has three sets of french doors opening onto it, with the central entry having a transom. Six-over-six double-hung windows flank the doors. Rear porch has been enclosed, date unknown. Attached garage and small addition located in the Ca. 1836, additions and alterations early 1900s. This house is believed to have been built for Admiral David Farragut and was owned by his descendants until 1906.
- (Charles B. Delmas House). Two-story, hip-roof, frame residence with a 4. two-tier front gallery. Square posts are replacements of original turned and bracketed posts, four of which remain. Second-story balustrade with turned balusters is original. Two transomed entrances open onto the porches on each level but the south entrance on the ground floor was added in the 1940s when the house was converted into a duplex. Back gallery was also enclosed at that time. House is a single-family residence. Ca. 1890-1910
- Two-story, salt box-gable-roof, frame residence (John B. Delmas House). 5. with one-story ell on rear elevation. Two-tiered gallery spans the facade and has continuous square columns with molded capitals. A simple balustrade encloses the upper gallery. Pilastered central entrance has transom and sidelights. Four large six-over-six double-hung windows complete the first-story fenestration. The second story has similar fenestration, but the doorway does not have a transom or sidelights. Windows on first-floor porch are partially boarded. House converted into apartments, date unknown. Ca. 1850

8. Significance

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning	law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1820-1910	Builder/Architect N		,

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pascagoula River was the site of a small Indian village before the arrival of the Europeans in 1699. The first French settlers established farms and engaged in the Indian trade and timber business and raised cattle as well. During the 1720s, visionary entrepreneurs proposed schemes to transform the region into a flourishing center of commerce and agriculture. Concessionaires of the Company of the Indies sent colonists, but lack of sufficient support and, no doubt, the primitive state of European technology at the beginning of the eighteenth century, condemned large scale colonization to failure. The colonization impresarios left, but some of the earlier settlers remained on company land, to clear it and eventually to achieve a prosperous condition through hard work and perseverance (Cyril E. Cain, Four Centuries on the Pascagoula [n.p., 1953], vol. I, pp. 4-5).

During the French, English, and Spanish periods, Pascagoula remained a small settlement of people. Not an administrative or military center, it was governed and defended from Mobile and Pensacola. It escaped periods of explosive population growth and economic expansion until the twentieth century. Instead, it enjoyed what can only be afforded to small towns--stability, unhurried progress, and family continuity.

The Pascagoula River has always played an important part in the development of the area--early Indian travel, the explorations of a priest from DeSoto's expedition in 1539, and of D'Iberville and Bienville in 1699-1700. In 1806 the river was utilized for military transportation, and commercial schooners were calling on the area in 1810. Cotton was shipped from upstate down the river beginning in 1819, and during the great lumber boom from 1880-1920, vessels from all over the world called at the port, as do modern ships today (Cain, vol. I, p. 86).

The Front Street Historic District is the only accessible area in the City of Pascagoula which overlooks the port and river activities. The district encompasses the 2800 and 2900 blocks of Front Street, in which there are five houses, each representing architecture distinctive of the area (i.e., large front galleries, floor-to-ceiling windows, raised brick foundation piers). Although a time span in construction of approximately eighty years is covered, each house is recognized as being built in order to make it habitable during the warm, humid summer months. The area contains many stately live oak trees which should be preserved with the houses.

In addition, it is believed the area was the site of the battle between the Pascagoula and Biloxi Indians, and where the "singing" of the river is best heard. Many Indian artifacts have been found in the district, and several of the sites (#1, 2, and 4) have the remnants of shell middens attributed to the Indians (Cain, vol. I., pp. 117).

9.	Major Bib	liographica	al Referenc	es	
Builo	ding Conservation Society, 1981-19		t. [n.p.] for the	Jackson Cou	nty Historical
Cain		Four Centuries on .p.], 1953.	the Pascagoula.	2 vols. Sta	te College,
10	. Geograp	hical Data			
Quad	age of nominated prope rangle name Pascag References	rty <u>6.15</u> oula, Miss.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Quadrang	e scale 1:24000
A 1		3 3 5 9 8 4 0 Northing	B Zone Ea	asting	Northing
C E G			D		
Stre	et and John Avenu 96.0 feet West al	e, claim Section ong South margin	Commencing at the solution 5, Township 8, Rangof John Avenue to f John Avenue 375	ge 6, Pascag the point of	oula, Mississippi, beginning. Thence
List	all states and count	es for properties ove	rlapping state or coun	ty boundaries	(continued)
state	N/A	code	county		code
state	N/A	code	county		code
11	. Form Pro	epared By			•
	/title Kristine He	200			
name	,		ion Commission date	November 1	7 1083
	<u> </u>			November .	17, 1703
street	t& number P. O. Dr	awer 908 c/o City	Hall teleph	hone (601)	762-1020, ext. 236
	rtown Pascagoula		state		
12	. State Hi	storic Pres	ervation Of	fficer C	ertification
The e	valuated significance o	f this property within the	e state is:		
	national	state	X local		
665),	I hereby nominate this	property for inclusion in	r for the National Historic the National Register and the National Park Service	d certify that it h	t of 1966 (Public Law 89– as been evaluated
State	Historic Preservation C	Officer signature	mith H. F	? Pool	
title	Deputy State H	istoric Preservati	on Officer	date	April 3, 1984
Fo /	1 20046 149	s property is included in	the National Register Entered in the		5/17/84
Ke	eeper of the National R				
A t	itest:			date	
<u></u>	nief of Registration				

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Front Street Historic District
Continuation sheetJackson County, Mississippi

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description and Justification)

margin of Front Street; thence run South 716 feet more or less along the East margin of Front Street; thence run East parallel to the South margin of John Avenue 375 feet; thence run North parallel to the East margin of Front Street 716 feet to the point of beginning.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Pascagoula, Jackson County, MS

Amendment Front Street Historic District (Additional Information) Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi

The purpose of this amendment is to provide additional information and update the inventory of the district to include an archaeological element and remove an architectural element from the listing.

(Item numbers correspond to the original nomination)

Section 2: Location Removed Element

2810 Front Street (Walter Denny House)
Pascagoula, Jackson County (Code 59), Mississippi Code (MS), 39567

Additional Element

Archaeological site-N/A

Section 5: Classification

Ownership of property: Private

Original nomination: One district containing 5 resources, consisting of

5 contributing buildings

Amendment: add 1 contributing archaeological site

remove 1 contributing building

Total count of elements after the amendment:

4 contributing buildings

1 contributing site

Section 7: Narrative Description

See continuation sheets

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Pascagoula, Jackson County, MS

Certification

Kenneth H. P'Pool

-,

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Jackson County, Mississippi

Additional element: Singing River Archaeological Site (22Ja520) Located within the boundaries of the Front Street Historic District and underlying most of the area of the district is an archaeological site that was not mentioned in the original nomination for the district.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Singing River (22Ja520) is a large, complex, multi-component archaeological site, located in the Coastal Pine Meadows physiographic region approximately 1 km south of Mississippi State Highway 90 and 1.5 km north of the mouth of the Pascagoula River, Jackson County, Mississippi (NW¼, SW¼, Irregular Sec. 5, T8S, R6W). The site extends approximately 112.5 meters north-south along the east bank of the Pascagoula River and 29 meters east-west. The majority of the site is covered by residential structures and yards with grass and large live oaks. Excavation units and auger tests into sections of the site revealed midden comprised principally of earth and shell fish remains (Rangia cuneata and oyster) extending for as much as 1.3 meters deep (Blitz and Mann 1993).

Originally, Singing River was considered three separate sites: Delmas Place (22Ja508), Shirley (22Ja520), and Michelle Mound (22Ja578) (see Chambers 1933; Dilworth 1979; Greenwell 1981; Lazarus 1959; Sears 1977). It was not until 1992, when a series of auger tests excavated across these properties, revealed continuity among the deposits indicating a single site. In addition to the auger tests, Blitz and Mann (1993) excavated two 2x2 meter units, in which they recovered 2,271 pot sherds, the majority of which were plain wares (87%), indicating an intensive utilization of the site during late prehistoric times (Blitz and Mann 1993:29).

Based on their excavations, Blitz and Mann (1993:65) were able to identify two unique ceramic complexes at the site. The earliest habitation of the site appears to occur during what Blitz and Mann (1993:65) define as the Pinola phase (A.D. 1000/1100-1250). Pinola is a distinctive ceramic complex comprised primarily of "late Coastal Coles Creek types, shell tempered Moundville-like pottery, and an unnamed mixed shell and grog tempered ceramic series" (Blitz and Mann

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1993:65). Identified plain wares include Baytown Plain, Bell Plain, and Mississippi Plain, while decorated types include Carter Engraved, var. Shell Bluff, Coles Creek Incised, var. Mott, Evansville Punctated, var. Rhinehart, Mazique Incised, Medora Incised, Moundville Incised, and Mulberry Creek Cord Marked (Blitz and Mann 1993:65). Blitz and Mann (1993:65) interpret this "ceramic complex and the unnamed mixed shell and grog ceramic series as the product of an indigenous late Coles Creek society exposed to Mississippian ideas originating to the north."

The succeeding Singing River phase (A.D. 1250-1450/1550), as identified by Blitz and Mann (1993:66), refers to the "Mature Mississippi period Pensacola culture in the region." Although similar to Bottle Creek phase I and II of the Mobile Bay region (see Fuller and Brown 1993; Fuller and Stowe 1982), Singing River differentiates and distinguishes itself from Bottle Creek by possessing a high frequency of a local ceramic manifestation identified as Moundville Incised, var. Singing River (Blitz and Mann 1993:66). Other ceramic types identified for the phase include Bell Plain, Mississippi Plain, D'Olive Incised, var. Dominic, Mound Place Incised, Moundville Incised, vars. Carrollton, Snows Bend, Moundville and Bottle Creek, and Pensacola Incised, var. Gasque.

In addition to these principal phases, minor amounts of additional cultural material indicative of later occupations were also recovered from the site. A variety of Late Mississippian/Protohistoric ceramics, including several unnamed local varieties of D'Olive Incised and Pensacola Incised, commingled with earlier Singing River phase pottery indicate the beginning of the Deer Island phase (A.D. 1550-1700) at the site. Additionally, artifacts such as gunflints, pearlware and transfer print ceramics, as well as cut and wire nails signal the end of an aboriginal dominated assemblage and the beginning of European influence and settlement in the area (A.D. 1700-1850).

While these excavations revealed much about Singing River's past, as well as the culture-history of southeastern Mississippi, they were not able to enlighten us about the Michelle Mound section of the site. Due to a lack of landowner cooperation, Blitz and Mann were forced to rely upon local informants and

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Front Street Historic District

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Jackson County, Mississippi

results gathered from an amateur excavation (Greenwell 1981) for their description of Michelle Mound. Based upon this questionable data, Blitz and Mann assumed Michelle Mound was an "intentionally constructed earthwork" (John H. Blitz, personal communication) that possible served as "the only single-mound local center" of the Pensacola culture in the region (Blitz and Mann 1993:66). However, more recent observations at Michelle Mound (see Sims 1998) suggest that this section of the site may only be an extension of the accretional earth and shell midden identified for other parts of Singing River. Only through additional research at the site, will a better understanding of Michelle Mound and the Singing River site as a whole, be possible.

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Jackson County, Mississippi

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While the original nomination provides documentation on the historic structures in the Front Street Historic District, it fails to fully describe the prehistoric aspects of the District. The main impetus for the cursory attention shown the archaeological resources in the original nomination, falls primarily on an unqualified individual's inability to adequately assess the significance of the archaeological resources present in the District. However, due to the recent archaeological studies at the Singing River site (see Blitz and Mann 1993), we now have sufficient data identifying the District's unique prehistoric attributes, revealing an expanded period of significance (ca. 1000/1100 to 1910) for the Front Street Historic District. The following statement of significance focuses entirely upon the formerly omitted prehistoric attributes of the District.

While most coastal archaeological sites have many properties in common, only a few, such as Singing River, have yielded, and retain the potential to yield, information important to knowledge of Mississippi's prehistory. Therefore, the Singing River archaeological site is significant statewide under the Prehistoric Archaeology Area of Significance of National Register Criterion D. The Singing River site has withstood many of the deleterious effects of coastal subsidence and other natural phenomena. In addition, Singing River has endured its share of anthropogenic related impacts, such as amateur excavations and the expansion of commercial development at the site. While the majority of the site remains reasonably intact and relatively undisturbed, impinging commercial development threatens to destroy sections of this invaluable resource.

According to Glassow and Wilcoxon (1988:36), "[t]he archaeology of coast-dwelling hunter-gatherers provides one of the most productive data bases for studying both temporal and spatial variations in subsistence, first because of the long and varied prehistories often represented, and second because of the considerable variety of subsistence remains preserved in coastal midden sites." Although numerous multi-component earth and shell accumulation sites have been recorded across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, very few have ever been excavated.

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Front Street Historic District

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Before, as with most areas in south Mississippi, researchers had to rely heavily upon previously established culture-histories in adjacent regions. However, research originating from the Singing River site (establishment of the Pinola and Singing River phases) has aided in a refinement of the ceramic-based prehistoric chronology for the eastern Mississippi Gulf Coast. In reference to the Pinola phase ceramic complex, Blitz and Mann (1993:65-66) state that there are no "comparable Late Woodland-emergent Mississippi phases defined elsewhere on the Alabama-Mississippi-Louisiana coast", reiterating the uniqueness of resources present at Singing River. These refinements provide researchers with additional tools to understand and evaluate how widespread regional cultures, such as Mississippian (or its coastal variant Pensacola), are introduced, accepted and expressed on a local level.

Additional recovered materials, not yet analyzed, such as floral and faunal remains, will also provide insight to interpretations on prehistoric environments and subsistence practices, data, that until research was conducted at this site, were unavailable for southeastern Mississippi. Overall, the Singing River research has contributed to a more complete knowledge of southeastern Mississippi prehistory, as well as added to the ever growing data base of southeastern prehistory in general.

In addition to the aforementioned data, Singing River also retains the ability to provide additional insights into aboriginal subsistence practices, paleoenvironment studies, as well as better understanding of the post-depositional environment (e.g., detrimental effects attributed to tideland fluctuations, water percolation, and severe weather disturbances) (see Smith 1986; Stein 1992). Additionally, this site provides archaeologists with a model to test in hopes of addressing issues pertaining to the effects of urban expansion and impact upon cultural resources. Finally, the application of new research tools like Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Oxidizable Carbon Ratio (OCR) may prove instrumental in recognizing and dating discrete anomalies (e.g., post holes) obscured in the often perplexing earth and shell deposit strata (see Stein 1992), which may lead to a refinement of established culture-historical frameworks.

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Jackson County, Mississippi

In summary, the Singing River site is an important repository of information which has, and can continue to, contribute to a better understanding of the cultural processes that helped shape southeastern Mississippi prehistory.

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Pascagoula, Jackson County, MS

Section 8: Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria:

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance:

ARCHAEOLOGY/Pre-historic

Period of Significance:

A.D. 1000 - 1910

Narrative Statement of Significance: see continuation sheets

Section 9: Major Bibliographical Reference

see continuation sheets

Section 11: Form Prepared By:

Douglas Sims, Archaeologist Deborah G. Wise, Architectural Historian Mississippi Department of Archives and History P.O. Box 571 Jackson, MS 39205-0571 (601)359-6940 May 7, 1998

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)
Jackson County, Mississippi

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Front Street Historic District

(Additional Information)

Jackson County, Mississippi

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Front Street Historic District (Additional Information)

Jackson County, Mississippi

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Unchanged

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Unchanged

PHOTOGRAPHS

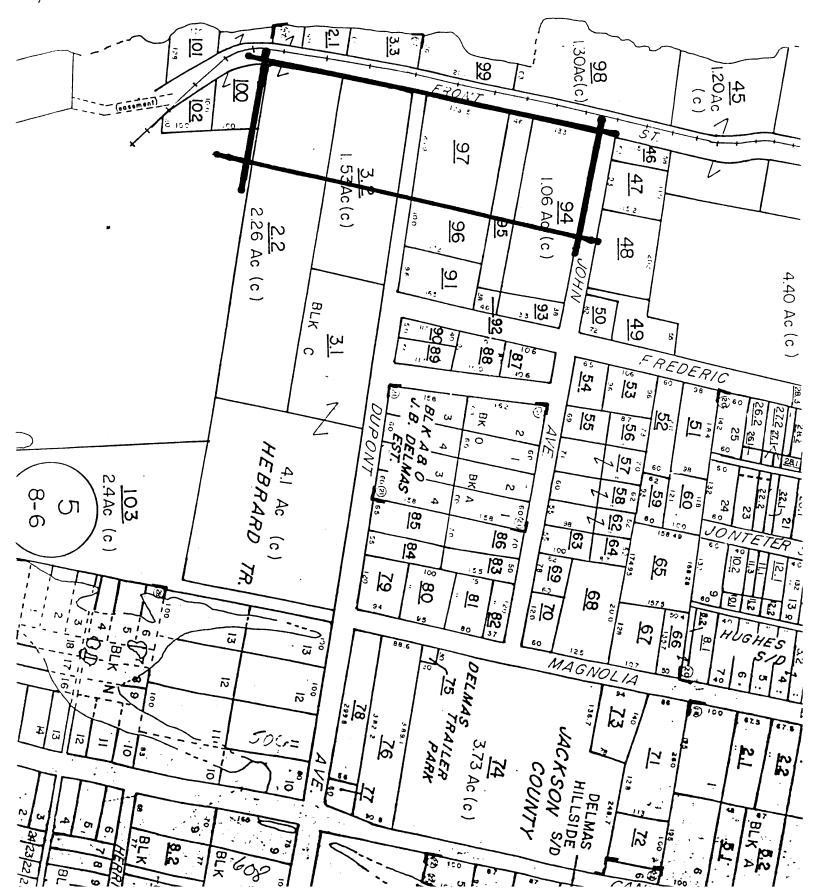
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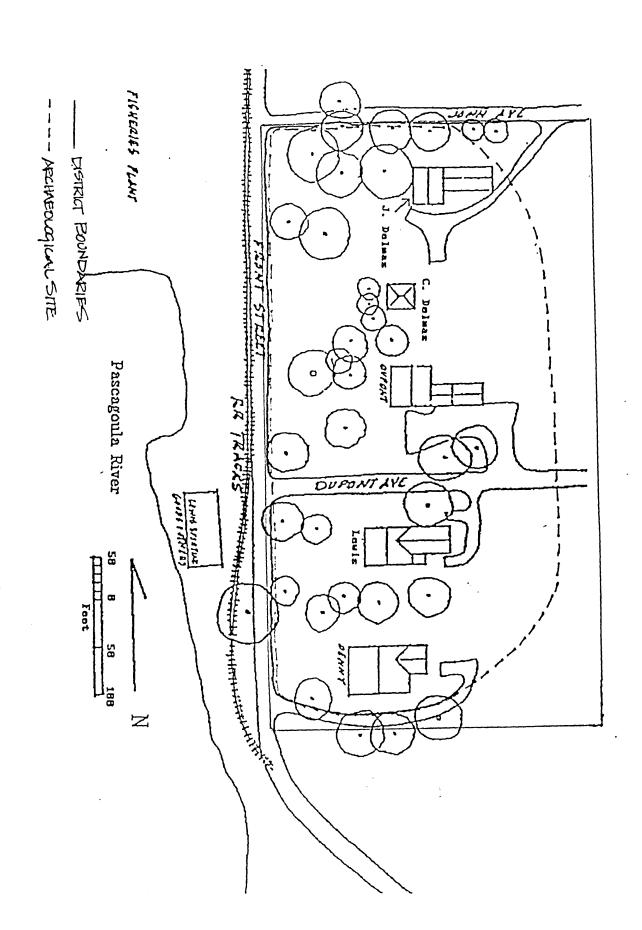
Front Street Historic District
Singing River site (22Ja520)
Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi
Dr. John H. Blitz and C. Baxter Mann
Summer of 1992
Color Slides/Negatives located at Mann & Associates, Inc., Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

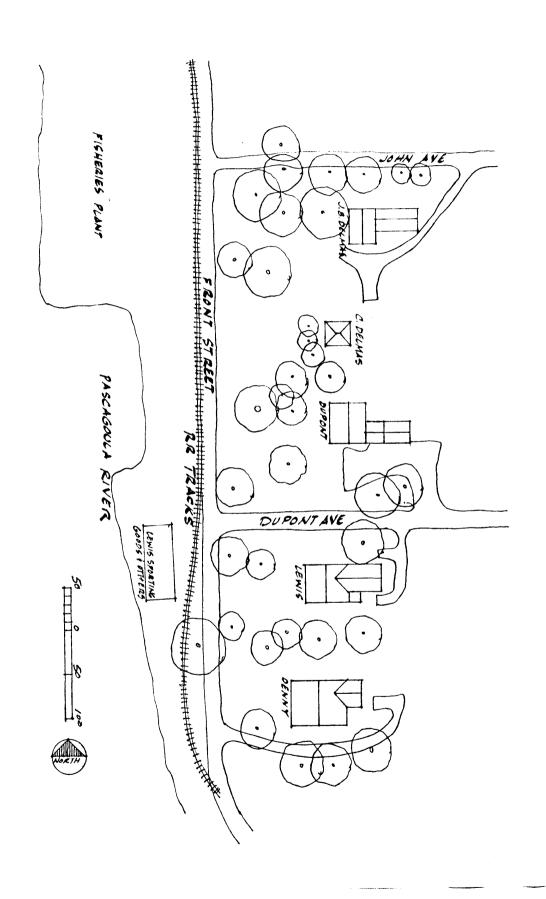
- 1. View to east, Singing River site
- 2. View to east, Archaeologist conducting excavations into Singing River site.

PRECEDENT JACKSON COUNTY, HISSIPPI

PASCAGOULA







1 1