

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received APR 18 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Front Street Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 2810, 2816, 2905, 2914, 2916 Front Street N/A not for publication

city, town Pascagoula N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Jackson code 59

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <u>N/A</u> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Magnolia Street

city, town Pascagoula state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved | date Ca. 1889 (Denny House) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

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. The district boundaries were drawn around a two-block area which includes only these houses. 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 late-nineteenth-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.)

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Front Street Historic District

Jackson County,

Continuation sheet Mississippi

Item number

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7 - DESCRIPTION

INVENTORY

Front Street

1. 2810. (Walter Denny House). One-and-a-half-story, frame residence with gable 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
2. 2816. (Frank Lewis House). One-and-a-half-story, gable-roof, frame residence. 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 floor-length six-over-nine double-hung sash. Ca. 1889
3. 2905. (Dupont/Pelham House). One-and-a-half-story, gable-roof, frame residence (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 rear. 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.
4. 2914. (Charles B. Delmas House). Two-story, hip-roof, frame residence with a 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
5. 2916. (John B. Delmas House). Two-story, salt box-gable-roof, frame residence 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

| 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 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 1820–1910

Builder/Architect N/A

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 Bibliographical References

Building Conservation Technology Report. [n.p.] for the Jackson County Historical Society, 1981-1982.
Cain, Cyril Edward. Four Centuries on the Pascagoula. 2 vols. State College, Mississippi: [n.p.], 1953.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.15
Quadrangle name Pascagoula, Miss. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>16</u> | <u>349775</u> | <u>3359840</u> | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing at the southwest corner of Frederic Street and John Avenue, claim Section 5, Township 8, Range 6, Pascagoula, Mississippi, run 96.0 feet West along South margin of John Avenue to the point of beginning. Thence continue West along the South margin of John Avenue 375 feet more or less to the East

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

| | | | | |
|-------|------------|------|--------|------|
| state | <u>N/A</u> | code | county | code |
| state | <u>N/A</u> | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristine Hesse
organization Pascagoula Historic Preservation Commission date November 17, 1983
street & number P. O. Drawer 908 c/o City Hall telephone (601) 762-1020, ext. 236
city or town Pascagoula state Mississippi 39567

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 April 3, 1984

For NPS use only

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

for Melissa Byer Entered in the National Register date 5/17/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Jackson County, Mississippi Item number 9 and 10

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers Project. . . . Mississippi Gulf Coast, Yesterday, 1699, and Today, 1939. Gulfport, Mississippi: Gulfport Printing Co., 1939.

Cayarre, Charles Etienne. History of Louisiana. 4 vols. New Orleans: F. F. Hansell & Bro., 1903.

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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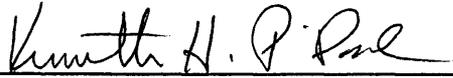
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Certification



Aug. 24, 1998

Kenneth H. P'Pool
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

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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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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria:

- D** 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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Glassow, Michael A. and Larry R. Wilcoxon

1988 Coastal Adaptations near Point Conception, California, with Particular regard to Shellfish Exploitation. *American Antiquity* 53(1):36-51.

Greenwell, Dale

1981 Archaeological Survey Report on Pascagoula Urban Waterfront and Moss Point Industrial (Special Management Areas). Report Submitted to the Bureau of Marine Resources. Manuscript on file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Lazarus, William C.

1959 A.W. Pinola Site, Pascagoula, Mississippi. Manuscript on file at the Temple Mound Museum, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Sears, William H.

1977 Prehistoric Culture Areas and Culture Change on the Gulf Coastal Plain. In *For the Director: Essay in Honor of James B. Griffin*, edited by C. Cleland, pp. 152-185. University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology, Anthropological Papers No. 61.

Sims, Douglas C.

1998 Damage Report: Michelle Mound (22-Ja-578), City of Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi. Manuscript on file at Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Smith, Bruce D.

1986 The Archaeology of the Southeastern United States: From Dalton to de Soto, 10,500-500 B.P. In *Advances in World Archaeology*, Volume 5, edited by F. Wendorf and A. Close, pp. 1-92. Academic Press, Inc., New York.

Stein, Julie K., editor

1992 *Deciphering a Shell Midden*. Academic Press, Inc. New York.

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Section: 10 & Photos Page: 12 Front Street Historic District
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Jackson County, Mississippi

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Unchanged

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

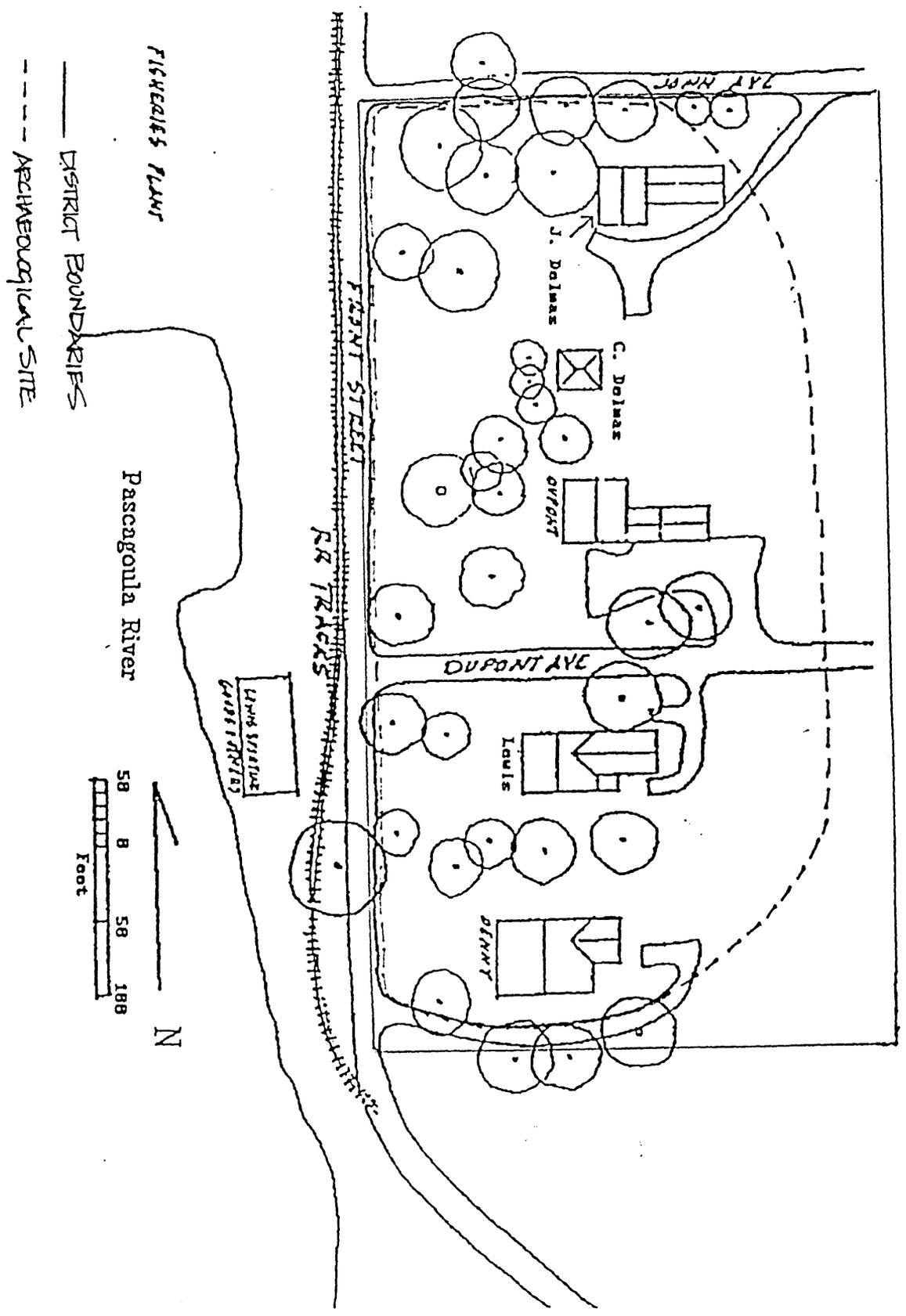
Unchanged

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

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.



FRONT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
Jackson County, Mississippi

