

Historic Sites Survey

(A)



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Oakview is a one-and-one-half-story raised basement brick cottage. Simple bargeboards embellish the gable ends of the building and its attached shed (east elevation). Segmental relieving arches cap the windows and entrance. The original cast iron anchor beams add interest to the facade, gable ends and rear of the building.

ALTERATIONS:

Interior remodelled in 1973.
One bay of the facade bricked in ca. 1900.

OUTBUILDINGS:

None

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

None

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Oakview (Practice Cottage: Rust College Infirmary) is one of the oldest extant buildings associated with black education in the State of Mississippi. It is the only nineteenth century building remaining on the campus of Rust College, the first black "normal institute" in the state and the first college established by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The school was founded in 1866 and chartered as Shaw College in 1870. This was the earliest effort made during Reconstruction by the Freedman's Aid Bureau, part of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North) to educate black children and train black teachers. In 1892, the school's name was changed to Rust College, honoring Dr. Richard S. Rust, then Secretary of the Freedman's Bureau.

Oakview is believed to have been built as a kitchen house for a plantation planned by Ulysses Ross, a wealthy Holly Springs contractor. The outbreak

NAME: Oakview (Rust College Infirmary)

STREET NO: Rust College Campus, Rust Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Holly Springs

COUNTY: Marshall

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Rust College

ADDRESS Holly Springs, Mississippi

PRESENT USE: Infirmary

FORMER USE: Private residence

DATE: Ca. 1860

STYLE: Greek Revival with Gothic Revival details

ARCH/BUILDER: Ulysses Ross, Contractor

SOURCE OF DATE: Rust College Catalogue, 1979-81

ENVIRONMENT: College Campus

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE ✓

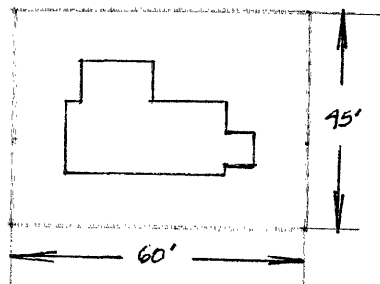
NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:



of the Civil War halted construction of the main house and other outbuildings. Ironically, Oakview and other Rust College buildings are located on the site of the former slave auction grounds of Holly Springs.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good

THREATS:

Demolition for campus improvements. Neighboring Foster Hall, second oldest extant building on the Campus (1904), demolished in October, 1980, for the Rust College Media Center.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nearest building to Oakview is the R. A. and Ruth M. Brown Mass Communication Center which is located on the West side of Oakview. There is approximately 35 feet between these buildings. See site plan above.

ACREAGE: less than one

UTM REF:

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Pamela G. Guren, Architectural Historian January, 1981
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History