

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 10 1983
date entered DEC 16 1983

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

1. Name

historic N/A
and/or common Virden-Patton House

2. Location

street & number 512 North State Street N/A not for publication
city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of
state Mississippi code 28 county Hinds code 49

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input 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 Mrs. Virginia Patton
street & number 512 North State Street
city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk; Chancery Court Building
street & number 316 South President Street
city, town Jackson state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites
title has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1972 federal state county local
depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History
city, town Jackson state Mississippi

(Survey representation continued on attached sheet)

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			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in a residential oasis amid office and ecclesiastical clusters, the Virden-Patton House, a Greek Revival cottage, is one of four historic residences dominating the block of North State Street between College and High Streets. A companion to an adjacent cottage built in the same mode, this dwelling is located opposite the Sims and Morris Houses, both of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The one-story Virden-Patton House, framed by magnolias and ringed by a network of rectilinear brick walks, is a manifestation of a previous epoch during which grand residences lined North State Street, an avenue once renowned for its opulence.

Erected in 1849, the Virden-Patton House is constructed of brick laid in a common bond. Capping the residence is a gently pitched, gable roof, the profile of which is concealed by a stepped gable parapet at each end. Incorporated into each parapet are interior end chimneys, two on each side. A gallery, whose paneled box columns carry a denticulated entablature and a flat roof, spans the front elevation. Its simplicity is reinforced by rectangular-section balusters, tongue-and-groove flooring, and a flush-board ceiling. Punctuating the five-bay principal facade are two sets of floor-to-ceiling, double-hung windows and a centrally located, single-leaf entrance. The four-panel door, aligned with the approach to the gallery, is accentuated by sidelights and a transom, all of which are multi-light units. Framing this slightly recessed entrance is a boldly executed, shouldered surround, a feature which is echoed on the interior. The multi-light windows--nine-over-nine in front and six-over-six on the side elevations--are crowned by cornice windowheads. An identical treatment highlights the shuttered windows which pierce the gable ends. All of the windows, milled to resemble the originals, were installed in or around 1934, supplanting the two-over-two, double-hung type employed during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Projecting from the rear elevation is a gabled appendage which incorporates the rear gallery and kitchen/service areas. Characterized by large-unit, multi-light fenestration, this portion of the house, originally a shed-roof gallery flanked by cabinet rooms, is inserted between the main block and rear dependencies. By virtue of their rectangular plans, brick construction and elbowed parapets, these dependencies are linked architecturally to the house. The north dependency, from which a carport extends westward, initially housed the kitchen and servants' quarters; an original fireplace, framed by cypress paneling, graces the principal space which, until recently, functioned as an office/den. The south dependency, modified after 1934 to accommodate an apartment, served as a coal bin and cistern enclosure in its earlier years.

Loosely based on the precepts of the double-pile plan, the interior configuration of the Virden-Patton House is symmetrical. The focal point, a divided center hall, has three aligned Grecian doorways, including the front entrance, which are adorned with divided sidelights and transoms. The rear section of this hallway, wider than its counterpart in front, accommodates a dining room and, based on physical evidence, was originally served by a fireplace; bedrooms flank this space. Sandwiched between the

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Jackson Landmarks

1982 X Local

Junior League of Jackson, Inc.

Jackson, Mississippi

7. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

parlor (southwest corner) and another bedroom (northwest corner) is the front hall. Fireplaces, highlighted by shouldered/battered enframements, grace the four principal interior spaces. Similar surrounds emphasize the remaining apertures of the interior, the largest of which are filled with four-panel doors. Two of the rooms--the parlor and the southeast bedroom--are floored with the original heart-pine planks. Like the walls, the cores of which are brick, the unadorned ceilings are of plaster. Access to the former rear gallery--an enclosed frame projection which was enlarged to house the kitchen, breakfast room/sunroom and two bathrooms--is gained through the original rear entrance, a duplicate of that which serves the front.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	1849	Builder/Architect	N/A
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Virden-Patton House is significant as one of Jackson's oldest and best preserved Greek Revival residences. The house is also significant for its association with Alexander Virden, an early Jackson merchant and civic leader, and with Brigadier General John W. Patton Jr., a Jackson native and distinguished naval officer.

After five years of statehood and a succession of capitols, Jackson was designated Mississippi's Capital City in 1822. Peter Van Dorn's 1822 Map of Jackson laid out the city upon a formal grid, and designated State and Capitol streets as major arteries, with the proposed State Capitol building at the junction. Various parcels throughout the city were plotted for specific purposes, including College Squares 1 and 2, and College Green, designated for public education.¹

By 1845, with the State Capitol located at the axis of Capitol and State streets, and the Governor's Mansion standing a few blocks east on Capitol Street, Jackson had evolved into a prosperous governmental center. As commercial and ecclesiastical structures rose along Capitol Street, merchants and businessmen constructed residences along State Street. The Greek Revival style, which flourished in Mississippi during the antebellum period, was a popular style along North State Street.

In 1846, the State of Mississippi permitted the sale of the Jackson school lands. One year later James Wilson, a Jackson painter, purchased College Square 2, Lot 2, located on the 500 block of North State Street, from the Trustees of the Jackson Academies. Within a short time, construction began on the Wilson residence. The house, constructed in 1849 at 512 North State Street, combined the simple, strong form of the one-story, five-bay Greek Revival cottage with the detailed decorative elements found among Mississippi's more elaborate Greek Revival mansions.²

Alexander Virden (born 1814), the son of Matthew Lowber and Elizabeth Berry Virden, emigrated from Kent County, Delaware, to Jackson in the 1830's, and soon established himself as a prominent entrepreneur. By 1842, Virden and his business partner, D. H. Otto, conducted a large trade in dry goods and sundry items. The partnership was soon dissolved, and Virden continued the business alone. The company continued to thrive, and by the mid-1850's, the annual sales had increased almost ten times over the 1842 report. On the eve of the Civil War, the operation of A. Virden & Company apparently passed to Alexander Virden's second cousins, Edwin Virden and Samuel Virden, Jr. The family closed the business at the outbreak of the war, but reestablished it in 1868 as E. & S. Virden.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

Laws of the State of Mississippi. 1846.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Jackson, Mississippi

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	6	5	6	3	0	3	5	7	7	4	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2, less 84 feet of east end of College Square 2, North Jackson survey, (Map 24, Parcel 44-City of Jackson Tax Maps, no date).

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert J. Bailey, P. Ana Gordon, Gary Sachau, Historians and Architectural Historian
Mississippi Department of
organization Archives and History date August 1983

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

city or town Jackson state Mississippi

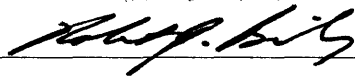
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date

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



date 12/16/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to his business commitments, Virden participated in local government and eleemosynary causes. During the 1840's and the 1860's, Virden served on the Jackson Board of Aldermen. In 1844, he played a significant role in the formation of two free schools in Jackson, designated for the education of poor and orphaned children. In 1859, he served on the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Schools, and two years later he was elected a trustee of the Blind Asylum. In 1880, Virden became a founding member of the first board of directors for the newly formed Jackson Board of Trade.⁴

Virden met his wife, Ruth Anna Virden (a second cousin, born 1826) during a business trip to New England. They married in 1849, and upon their return to Jackson, moved into the residence at 512 North State Street. Over the course of 19 years, the Virdens had seven sons, three of whom lived to maturity.⁵

During the Civil War Virden joined the Confederacy as a private in the "Minute Men," Company E., 1st Mississippi Infantry--a regiment organized in July 1862 from various county militia. The Virden family left Jackson in 1863, and relocated at a family farm in nearby Brandon. With the exception of several destroyed paintings, the Virden residence survived the Union occupation of Jackson unscathed.⁶

Following the death of Alexander Virden in 1892, Mrs. Virden and her bachelor son Alexander resided in the house. Upon Mrs. Virden's death in 1916, the younger Virden, a prominent Jackson realtor and secretary for the Jackson Board of Trade, inherited the house. Alexander Virden, Jr., died the following year. Upon his death the property passed to his older brother, Samuel Virden, and his heirs. The Samuel Virden family retained the residence throughout the 1920's and into the first years of the Depression. The economic severity of the times hastened the sale of the Virden home in December, 1934, to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Patton, Jr. The Pattons and their daughter moved into the North State Street residence in 1935.⁷

John W. Patton, Jr. (1899-1968) was the son of a prominent Jackson insurance agent (John W. Patton, Sr., 1869-1950). Associated with his father for a time at Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, and himself later a general agent for Atlantic Life, the younger Patton distinguished himself as an officer in the National Guard. Having attended the United

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE continued

States Naval Academy (1918-1922), he went on active duty with the National Guard in September, 1940. In 1946 Lieutenant Colonel Patton won the Army Commendation Ribbon "For exceptionally meritorious service as Commanding Officer of Baton Rouge Engineer Depot, ...from September 5, 1944, to June 10, 1945."⁸ In July 1948, Colonel Patton was appointed by Selective Service headquarters in Washington to head the Selective Service in Mississippi (prior to the outbreak of World War II Patton had helped organize the wartime draft).

Among his other credits, John W. Patton, Jr. was elected Commander of the Henry Graves Post No. 1, American Legion in 1935, and President of the Jackson Rotary Club in 1955. He retired a Brigadier General and died in Jackson in May, 1968. His widow still resides at 512 North State Street.⁹

FOOTNOTES

¹Peter Van Dorn, Map of Jackson, 1822, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

²Laws of Mississippi, 1846, ch. 9, 118-123; Virden-Patton House: Jackson, Hinds Co., Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

³Real and Personal Tax Rolls, Hinds Co., Miss., 1843-1849. Secretary of State, Register of Commissions, Miss. 1887-1891, 10; *ibid.*, 1892-1895, 8, 10; Jackson Weekly News, March 16, 1899; Edythe Wilson Thoesen, "The Descendants of Peter Lowber Virden, William Virden, and Matthew Lowber Virden"; William D. McCain, The Story of Jackson, A History of the Capitol of Mississippi, 1821-1851, pp. 75-6.

⁴Secretary of State, Register of Commissions, 1858-1864, 9, 325, 329; *ibid.*, 1865-1869, 229; McCain, The Story of Jackson, 186, 191, 217.

⁵Thoesen, "The Descendants of Peter Lowber Virden....".

⁶*Ibid.*; Dunbar Rowland, comp., "Roll of Mississippi Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865" (Infantry, State Troops), Vol. 7, 1915, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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FOOTNOTES continued

⁷Viriden-Patton House: Jackson, Hinds Co., Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891), Vol. 2, 178-179; Works Progress Administration, "History of Hinds County: Supplement to Old Homes" (typescript), Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

⁸Jackson Daily News, May 27, 1946.

⁹Jackson Daily News, October 11, 1935; ibid., May 27, 1946; ibid., March 15, 1955; ibid., May 16, 1968; Memphis Commercial Appeal, July 29, 1948.

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McCain, William D. The Story of Jackson, A History of the Capitol of Mississippi, 1821-1951. Jackson: J. F. Hyer Publishing Co., 1953.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Dunbar Rowland, comp., "Roll of Mississippi Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865." (Infantry, State Troops), 1915.

_____, Edythe Wilson Thoesen, comp., "The Descendants of Peter Lowber Virden, William Virden, and Matthew Lowber Virden." Typescript manuscript.

_____, Hinds County. Real and Personal Tax Rolls, 1843-1849.

_____, Peter Van Dorn, Map of Jackson, 1822.

_____, Secretary of State. Register of Commissions, 1858-1864; 1865-1869; 1887-1891; 1892-1895.

_____, Statewide Survey File, Hinds County, Virden-Patton House: "Abstract of Title Number Thirty Three Hundred Sixty Seven-A."

_____, Vertical File: "Ed Virden."

_____, Vertical File: "John W. Patton."

_____, Works Progress Administration: "History of Hinds County, Supplement to Old Homes."