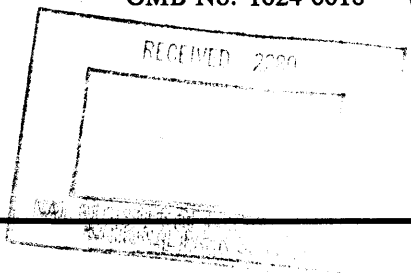


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1378

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Weir, Col. John, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 102 Ann Street not for publication N/A
city or town Weir vicinity N/A
state Mississippi code MS county Choctaw code 19 zip code 39735

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul
Signature of certifying official
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SEPT. 29, 1997
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain):

Edson H. Ball 11/7/97

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check only one box.)

Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing
1

1

Noncontributing
1 buildings
 _____ sites
 _____ structures
 _____ objects
1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the NR
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone & brick piers
 roof composition shingles
 walls weatherboard
 other milled wooden trim

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Period of Significance N/A _____

Significant Dates 1878 c. 1890 c. 1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder Col. John Weir, Builder; Bill McCameron, Architect _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository
Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>286800</u>	<u>3682020</u>	3	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
— See continuation sheet.							

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Embree

organization Preservation Consultant

date 5/15/97, Revised 6/30/97

street & number 1364 Lake Valley Road

telephone (601) 324-0410

city or town Starkville

state MS zip code 39759

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Weir Historical Society (C/O Lila Chandler)

street & number P.O. Box 542 telephone (601) 547-6951

city or town Weir

state MS zip code 39735

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of property Weir, Col. John, House

County and state Choctaw, Mississippi

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The John Weir House at 102 Ann Street, in Weir, Choctaw County, Mississippi, is an excellent example of post-bellum Greek Revival architecture. It is a weatherboard, one-story, side-gabled, house that rests on a stone and brick pier foundation. The house has undergone historical alterations including the attachment of the kitchen to the main house and the addition of a rear ell. These alterations have given the house its current U-shaped floor plan.

The east facade is characterized by its five-bay configuration that is dominated by a centrally located gabled portico and corner pilasters. The portico shelters paired four-panel entry doors with a three-light transom. Flanking the entrance at each side are two six-over-six double-hung sash windows set into plain wooden frames. The portico is a reconstruction based on the buildings' one-bay pilasters, the use of flushboard in the central bay, and the elaborately-molded entablature. The historical society worked with an architect to reconstruct a one-bay, gable-front portico with wooden boxed columns that feature molded capitals. Bolection molding on these new columns matches that on the original pilasters defining the central bay and on exterior corners. Bolection molding is also used as cornice molding on the plain frieze that crosses the facade under the boxed eaves. The floor and steps of the portico are wood. (See photo # 1.) Facade windows retain their old glass. The double entry doors and their simple surround are original. (See photo #2.) Matching doors at the rear of the central hall once opened on the rear porch. (See photo #4.)

The northern elevation has four bays, all six-over-six, double-hung windows in frames with drip cap. A brick chimney has been removed from between the easternmost two windows on this elevation. The central and westernmost windows are the single sources of light for the former dining room and second kitchen. Eaves are boxed on the northern wing, which rests on brick piers with some brick skirting.

The rear, or western elevation has simple fascia on its parallel weatherboarded wings. Brick skirting fills between brick foundation piers. A porch recessed within each wing and under a shed extension off the main gabled section is supported on attenuated box columns that land in front of the wooden porch floor on short brick piers. The columns have simple molded capitals. Replacement porch steps on the northern wing are concrete. Sheltered within the porch roof on either wing are plank entry doors in plain frames. Under the extension of the main side-gabled roof, two replacement six-over-six double-hung windows flanking a mid-20th century door light the kitchen and a bathroom. (See photo #3.)

The southern elevation matches the northern except for the insertion of a door in place of the southeastern window. The door appears to be from the mid-20th century. It is a nine-light and panel door set into a plain wooden surround. Sheltering the door is a small gabled roof supported on angle brackets. The porch has exposed rafters and a simple fascia. (See photo #1.)

Four chimneys have been removed from the exterior: one from between the eastern windows on the north elevation; two from the ends of wings on the west elevation; and one from between the eastern windows on the south elevation. A bricked area between the rear wings was the original location of a well attached to the porch on the north wing, just outside the c. 1890 kitchen.

The interior of the house retains many of its original features. Most likely built as a one-room-deep center hall plan house, the original 1878 section of the house is characterized by its eight-foot wide hall with parlors on either side. Single-leafed, four-panel doors provide access from the central hall into the parlors. These oldest rooms have maintained their six-inch-wide, tongue-and-groove, heart-pine floors and walls, simple mantels, and ten-inch deep plank baseboards. (See photos #5,6.) The window and door surrounds are formed by plain miter joints with raised edges. About 1890, a rear ell was added to the north elevation. This ell seems to have been built in order to attach a free-standing kitchen to the main house by adding a one-room dining area. Soon after the completion of this ell, two bedrooms were added to the south elevation creating the house's current U-shaped floor plan. These two wings used similar materials such as tongue-and groove heart pine floors, simple mantels, and plain miter joints.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Name of property Weir, Col. John, House

County and state Choctaw, Mississippi

Narrative Description, Continued

A short, open, gable-front car shelter on 6-inch square posts, probably built at the time the door was altered, sits between the south wing and an alley to the south.

With its intact materials and plan, the Col. John Weir House is the most important built historic document of the town of Weir. Although the house has lost its chimneys and the portico has been reconstructed, most of the interior and exterior details are intact. Intact details include: interior walls, woodwork, floors, windows, doors, and mantels, and hardware; exterior siding, trim and foundation, and location. It is the only house in the post-bellum Greek Revival style. It is the home of the founder of the town and the primary surviving building connected to the Weir family. It is the oldest surviving building associated with the founding of the Town of Weir. Although other, mostly residential, buildings survive from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Col. John Weir house is the most architecturally sophisticated local building, other historic buildings being vernacular forms or Victorian Vernacular examples.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Name of property Weir, Col. John, House

County and state Choctaw, Mississippi

SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY

The Col. John Weir House is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture because it is a well-designed and well-preserved example of a post-bellum Greek Revival house. It was built in 1878 and enlarged in 1890 and 1910. (D. Fulgham, "Profile: The Col. John Weir House," Choctaw Plaindealer, 22 June, 1989: n.p.) The house was built by Col. John Weir, the town founder and a prominent early businessman, and is a symbol to the community; therefore, it is currently being converted into the headquarters for the Weir Historical Society.

The Greek Revival style remained popular in Mississippi well into the early 20th century. The Col. Weir House, built toward the end (c. 1878), may represent Weir's solid Southern credentials in an era when a significant portion of rebuilding efforts were being undertaken by investors from other regions. (When the Civil war began, Weir organized Co. D of the Fifth Mississippi Infantry, "The New Prospect Greys." Weir was made the captain of the unit, was later promoted to colonel and served as brigadier general at the battle of Jonesboro south of Atlanta on Aug. 31, 1864. The New Prospect Grays saw action at Chickamauga, Franklin, Jonesboro, Kennesaw Mountain, and Shiloh. Weir was wounded during the battle at Franklin. /Coleman, Appendix 1, "Choctaw County Confederate Military Units," pg. 455/) In her town history published in the Choctaw Plain Dealer in 1948, Mrs. E.V. Brown Patterson said the house was designed by Bill McCameron, "one of the best architects of that day." (Reprinted in Coleman, Choctaw County Chronicles, pg. 323) No information was found on Bill McCameron, but the modest and appropriate details of the house's form, plan, and facade, particularly the pilasters, frieze, and bolection moldings that define the facade, indicate that the designer was familiar and comfortable with the Greek Revival style.

At the time the house was built, there was no town in the area. The Weir family had owned land in the area prior to the Civil War. (U.S. Census, Winston County, MS, 1860) Col. Weir, his brother James Weir, and his father Thomas Weir had come to Choctaw County (then part of Winston County) from Fairfield County, South Carolina, probably in the 1850s. (Miller, Weir, pg. 1) In 1870, Col. Weir established a water mill on some 2,400 acres of Yokanookany Creek near the "Big Road" from Durant to Columbus, in what was then largely unsettled territory. Mrs. Patterson described the mill as "a three-story structure, painted white throughout, adorned with glass windows, tin troughs, and lightning rods . . . The mill was a showplace of the county. The river dam was a favorite place of picnicking, boating, and fishing. It was the center for social gatherings . . ." (Patterson, Chronicles, pg 323.

Col. Weir's first house (no longer extant) was built across the "Big Road" from the mill. (Ibid.) By 1878, with the mill well established, Col. Weir would have been financially able to construct a stylish dwelling. He may also have felt the responsibility, or at least the desire, to construct a house indicating his stature as a community founder, leading businessman, and major landholder. The house he built, probably with materials from his own timberlands and sawmill, would have been the most visible and important in the area until after the construction of the Canton, Nashville, and Aberdeen Railroad in the early 1880s. The mill itself, first operated by water power and then by steam, ground wheat and corn, ginned cotton, and sawed timber. (Miller, pg. 1) No pictures survive of the mill (burned down in 1893) or its associated structures, but local historians say the footings for the mill have been incorporated into the base of a building at Nick Simmons's Wood Yard, which now occupies the site on the west side of the road, now called Ann Street.

Throughout the South, the Reconstruction Era was notable for the development of natural resources that had been ignored prior to the war. The present town of Weir lies in a geographical area that was, through the late 19th century, part of a vast region of virgin pine forests. Col. Weir was among a group of entrepreneurs who saw these forests as a source of potential wealth. The closest examples of similar development were in Ackerman and Kosciusko, where the combination of forest resources and railroad systems created thriving towns or re-energized existing ones.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

Name of property Weir, Col. John, House

County and state Choctaw, Mississippi

SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY, CONTINUED

Col. Weir's house was still relatively new when he sold property for the right-of-way of the Canton, Aberdeen, and Nashville Railroad to the railroad company in 1881. (Choctaw County, MS. Deed Book B: pg. 106) The railroad was completed locally in 1883. It became part of the Illinois Central, now CSX. The community that developed around the mill, the road, and the new railroad was first called "Clark" for Horace Clark, a railroad official. But Clark requested that the name be changed to Weir's Mill in honor of the first settler. The word "Mill" was dropped from the name when the community applied for a incorporation in 1886. (Patterson, pg. 323)

As the community grew in the mid-1880s the town gained more commercial and civic enterprises. In 1884, Col. Weir donated the land and milled the lumber for the building of a Presbyterian church to serve his Scots-Irish family and several others who had settled nearby. Also in 1884, the town's first U.S. Post Office opened. John Weir was appointed its first Postmaster. (Miller, Weir, pg. 3) Weir lived in his home until his death in 1900. His descendants lived there until the death of the last surviving grandchild in 1985. (Fulgham, "Profile," 1989) The house is now owned by the Weir Historical Society, which hopes to make it the centerpiece of the redevelopment of downtown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9,10 Page 5

Name of property Weir, Col. John, House

County and state Choctaw, Mississippi

Section 9

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Choctaw County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book B. Municipal Plat Book #1. Choctaw County Courthouse, Ackerman.
- Coleman, J.P. Choctaw County Chronicles, A History of Choctaw County, MS, 1830-1973. North Carolina: The Reprint Co. Publishers, 1974, edited in 1981).
- Fulgham, D. "Profile: The Col. John Weir House." Choctaw Plain Dealer 22 June, 1989: n.p.: newspaper clipping held in National Register File at Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.
- Miller, Alice Townsend. "Weir." Choctaw Plain Dealer 1 July, 1976: typescript held by the Weir Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Robert Chandler.
- Patterson, Mrs. Evie Brown. "The Town of Weir." Choctaw Plain Dealer 13 Aug., 1948. Reprinted in Choctaw County Chronicles.
- Sanders, Dr. Jane. National Register Draft. In possession of Mrs. Robert Chandler, President, Weir Historical Society, Spring 1997.
- Townsend, Carl Weir, great-grandson of Col. John Weir. Interviewed by phone by Joan Embree, Weir, Mississippi, 13 April, 1997.
- United States. Bureau of the Census. Population schedules for Winston County, MS, 1860 and 1870. Special Collections, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi.

Section 10

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

South 1/2, Lot 4, Block 7, Hancock Survey, Town of Weir

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house and remaining lot that have historically been part of the Col. John Weir property and that maintain historic integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 6

Name of property Weir, Col. John, House

County and state Choctaw, Mississippi

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Weir, Col. John, House
- (2) Town of Weir, Choctaw County, Mississippi
- (3) Robert Anderson, Choctaw Plain Dealer
- (4) April, 1997
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1--(6) View of the facade (E) and south elevation, view from southeast

Photo 2--(6) View of front entry from inside, view from west

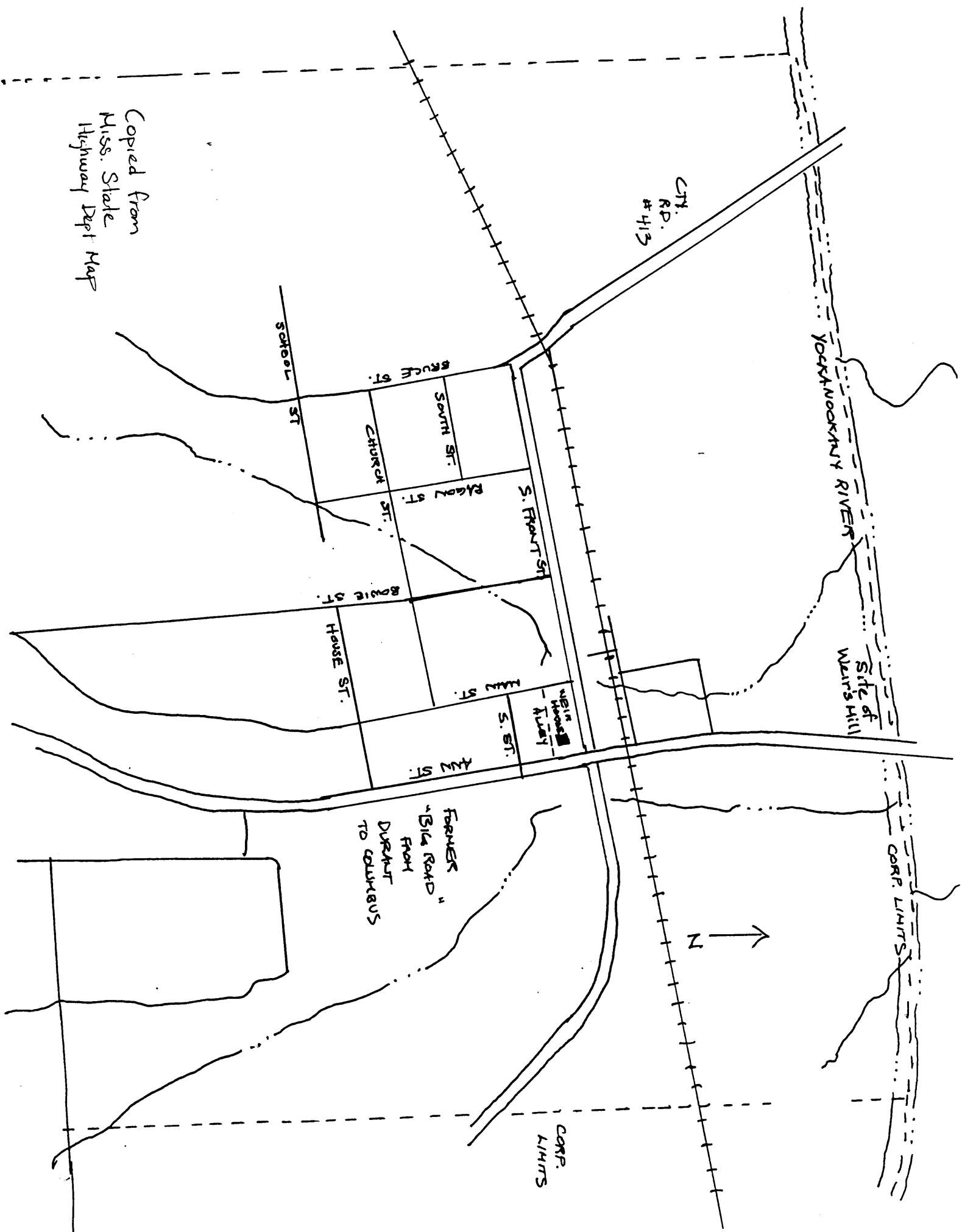
Photo 3--(6) View of rear (W) elevation, view from west

Photo 4--(6) View of rear entry, central hall, and front entry, view from west

Photo 5--(6) View of parlor mantel, interior woodwork, view to north

Photo 6--(6) View of exterior door to rear porch, north wing, view from northeast

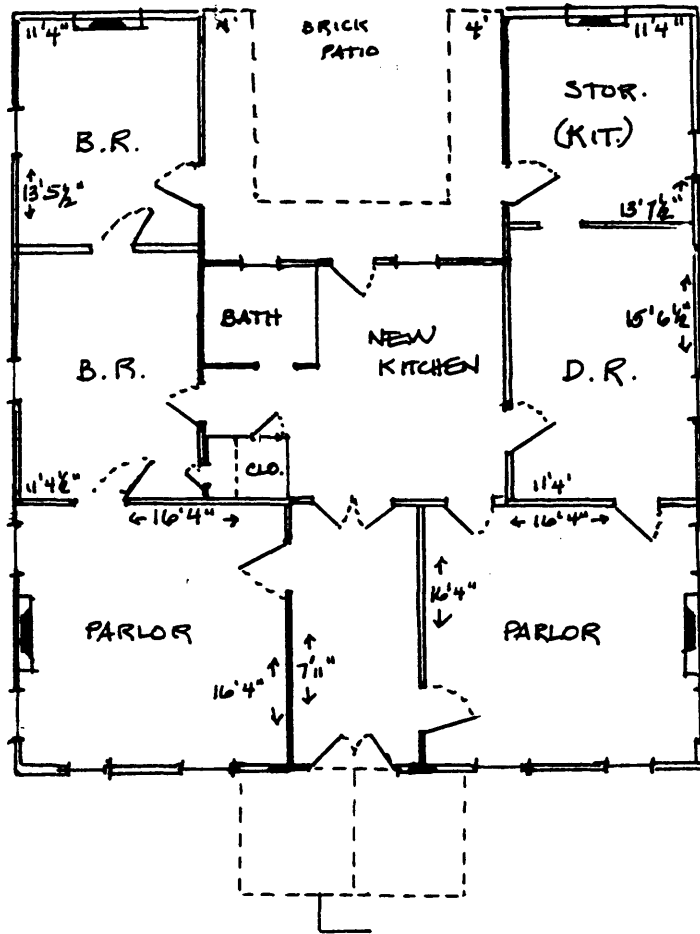
Copied from
Miss. State
Highway Dept Map



COL. JOHN WEIR HOUSE

TOWN OF WEIR

CHOCTAW COUNTY, MISS



(New) Picket fence

ANN ST.

SCALE - 3ft. = 1/4 in.