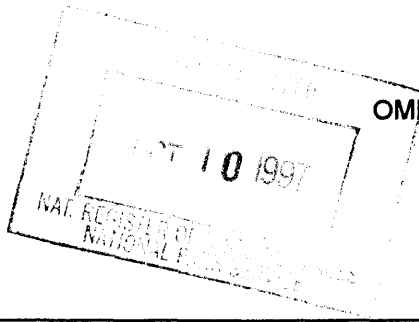


Resub



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Bynum, Dr. Joseph M., House  
other names/site number: Robbins House

**2. Location**

street & number: 48 South Front Street not for publication N/A  
city or town: Rienzi vicinity N/A  
state: Mississippi code MS county Alcorn code 003 zip code 38865

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 OCT. 1, 1997  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
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 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
X 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Ma J. M. Way 11/24/97  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:**  
PRIVATE

**Number of Resources within Property:**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:**  
Buildings

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	2	buildings sites structures objects
1	2	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:**  
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

**Current Functions:**  
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):**  
GOTHIC REVIVAL

**Materials:**  
foundation: brick  
roof: metal  
walls: wood/weatherboard  
other: glass, concrete

**Narrative Description:** See Continuation Sheets

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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.
- X **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.

**Areas of Significance**  
Architecture**Period of Significance**  
1876-77**Significant Dates**  
1876-77**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- 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.

**Significant Person(s)**  
N/A**Cultural Affiliation(s)**  
N/A**Architect/Builder**  
Unknown**Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** See continuation sheet.**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:  

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A	16/360180/3847495		C		
	B			D		

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title:	Jack Elliott and Richard Cawthon (revised by Harrison Stamm and Richard Cawthon)	date:	August 1996, revised May & September 1997
organization:	MDAH	telephone:	(601) 359-6940
street & number:	PO Box 571	state:	MS
city or town:	Jackson	zip code:	39205

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name:	Mr. & Mrs. Randy Hill	telephone:	(601) 462-5829
street & number:	48 South Front Street	zip code:	38865
city or town:	Rienzi	state:	MS

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Bynum, Dr. Joseph M., House  
Alcorn County, Mississippi

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Joseph M. Bynum House at 48 South Front Street, in Rienzi, Alcorn County, Mississippi, is being nominated under Criterion C as an intact example of a Gothic Revival house of the 1870s. Although changes have occurred including the enclosing of two porches and interior remodeling of the kitchen and bathrooms, the house retains its architectural integrity including many Gothic Revival identifying features, such as its steeply pitched roof with a centered gable and decorative vergeboards, Gothic arched windows, and historic massing.

The Bynum House is a one-and-one-half story wood-frame building with a steeply pitched center cross-gable and a rear ell that has gables matching those on the front portion of the house. The walls of the house are clad in horizontal weatherboards, except in the portico and on the face of the front gable, where the walls are flushboard. The house rests on a brick-pier foundation with concrete block infill. Distinctive Gothic features are found on all the elevations, including Gothic-arched upper windows and decorative vergeboard on all the eaves. The house has a standing-seam metal roof.

The front (west) facade is characterized by a projecting centered portico with a steeply pitched gable. The portico is supported by free-standing square wooden posts trimmed with wooden scrollwork brackets with star-shaped cutouts. The front entrance is a four-light and double-paneled door with transom set into a wooden frame. There is one six-over-six double-hung sash window with louvered wooden shutters located on either side of the entrance. The upper half-story is marked by three Gothic arched windows with decorative tracery patterns set into wooden frames. The center upper window is located in the projecting center gable, while the other two upper windows are in gabled dormers decorated with vergeboards and a pendant matching those of the center gable.

The south elevation has four bays and an asymmetrical gable. Alterations have been made to the east end of the south facade. Although no historic photographs have been found, this elevation seems to have had a covered porch at one time that has been enclosed with horizontal weatherboard. The existence of the porch is indicated by a pilaster that would have marked a corner but is currently engaged with weatherboard. The south elevation contains a four-panel door that is flanked by paired six-over-six double-hung sash windows set into wooden frames. The area that has been enclosed contains a modern single sash four-light window. The upper half-story has one Gothic-arched window with decorative tracery pattern set into a wooden frame in the gable.

The east elevation features two bays and an asymmetrical gable. Changes have occurred on the east elevation, including a replacement door and the enclosing of a historic window. A four-light and double-panel door is surmounted by a gable-roof dormer. The upper half-story is marked with one Gothic-arched window with a decorative tracery pattern set into a wooden frame in the gable.

The north elevation is characterized by asymmetrical paired gables, one on the main front portion of the house and a second gable at the rear. The rear section has a four-over-four double-hung sash window set into a wooden frame, above which is an upper-story Gothic-arched window with decorative tracery, enclosed by shutters. The two gabled sections of the north elevation are connected by an enclosed porch that has been converted into a bathroom. The larger gabled section has two six-over-six double-hung sash windows set into wooden frames on the lower story, above which are two Gothic-arched windows with decorative tracery patterns set into wooden frames, enclosed by shutters.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Bynum, Dr. Joseph M., House  
Alcorn County, Mississippi

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The interior plan features a foyer with a historically enclosed staircase flanked by two large front rooms. A long hallway that leads to the rear rooms is opens off the south front room. The first story has eleven-foot ceilings, while the second story has nine-foot ceilings. Interior doors throughout the house have four panels set into molded architraves with shallow peaked comices. The major doors are surmounted by transoms. There are wide, original baseboards throughout the house. The north front room has been renovated as a modern kitchen and features vertical plank walls that were historically covered with wallpaper and were never plastered. This room contains its original mantel, but a gas stove has replaced the historic fireplace. The foyer walls have been covered with modern drywall and a chair rail has been added. The south front room has its original mantel, but also has modern drywall and a chair rail. The upper story retains its wide plank pine floors, vertical plank walls, and an unaltered fireplace. Other modifications to the interior include changes to accommodate closet space, bathrooms, and a new kitchen; however, none of these alterations distract from the house's overall character. The doors and door casings, baseboards, room dimensions, ceiling heights, windows, and mantels survive to give the interior a relatively high degree of integrity.

In the back yard, west of the house, is a side-gabled, frame barn dating from about the 1970s and a front-gabled, frame barn built in the 1920s. Both of these outbuildings are non-contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bynum, Dr. Joseph M., House  
Alcorn County, Mississippi

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph M. Bynum House (commonly known locally as the Robbins House), is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an intact surviving example of nineteenth-century Gothic Revival residential architecture.

Construction on the Bynum House was begun in 1876, and completed the following year. It was built for Dr. Joseph Medicus Bynum, a native of North Carolina, who had settled in the small railroad town of Rienzi. Prior to the construction of this house, Dr. Bynum had resided on the same lot in a house that was destroyed by a tornado in 1875.

Gothic Revival residential architecture began to appear in Mississippi around 1850 as a picturesque alternative to the dominant Greek Revival style. It was not as popular in Mississippi as the Greek Revival style in the decade preceding the Civil War, and examples were never numerous, but some fine Gothic Revival houses were built. Among the most notable surviving examples from the Antebellum period are the Manship House in Jackson (1857), the former rectory of Chapel of the Cross in rural Madison County (1850s), and a group of three Gothic houses in Holly Springs -- "Airliewood" (1858), "Cedarhurst" (1857), and "The Magnolias" (circa 1850). The Gothic Revival was sometimes mixed with the Greek Revival and the Italianate styles to produce stylistic hybrids, such as the Jenkins H. Welch House near Crystal Springs (circa 1853) and a remarkable group of "Columbus Eclectic" houses constructed in Columbus in the 1850s. After the Civil War, the Gothic Revival continued to remain in favor in Mississippi into the 1880s, typically in a somewhat simplified vernacular version or in combination with other styles, but some notable Gothic houses were built as late as the mid-1880s, including a remarkable castellated wooden house called "The Castle," built in Aberdeen about 1885. (It still survives, although substantially altered, in the West Commerce Street Historic District). Surviving Gothic Revival houses from the late 1860s and the 1870s are not common in Mississippi, but there are some scattered examples, particularly in the northeastern part of the state. These include "Scuppermong" in Aberdeen (believed to have been built in 1842 and remodeled to its Gothic Revival form about 1875), the Col. Richard Berry Smith House in Booneville (a somewhat simpler -- and now somewhat altered -- Gothic house built in 1867), the Dr. James M. Taylor House in Corinth (circa 1870-75), and the Dr. Joseph M. Bynum House in Rienzi.

The Bynum House is a relatively intact and representative example of the Gothic Revival style as found in Mississippi in the 1870s. Although minor alterations have occurred in order to accommodate twentieth-century necessities such as indoor plumbing, a renovated kitchen space, and more closet spaces, the Bynum House retains a fairly high degree of physical integrity. It retains its distinctive exterior stylistic features -- including the steep cross gables, ornately carved vergeboards, and Gothic-arched upper windows -- and retains much of its historic interior detail -- including doors and door surrounds, transoms, and mantelpieces. The house is the finest surviving nineteenth century residence in the small community of Rienzi, and is its major architectural landmark.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bynum, Dr. Joseph M., House  
Alcorn County, Mississippi

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Williams, Rosemary Taylor. *Cross City Chronicle*. Corinth, Mississippi: Corinth Junior Auxiliary, 1976.

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is a square 100 feet on each side, aligned in cardinal directions, centered on the center of the roof ridge of the house, which is located at UTM reference 16/360180/3847495, in the SW quarter of Section 2, Township 4 South, Range 7 East, in Alcorn County, Mississippi.

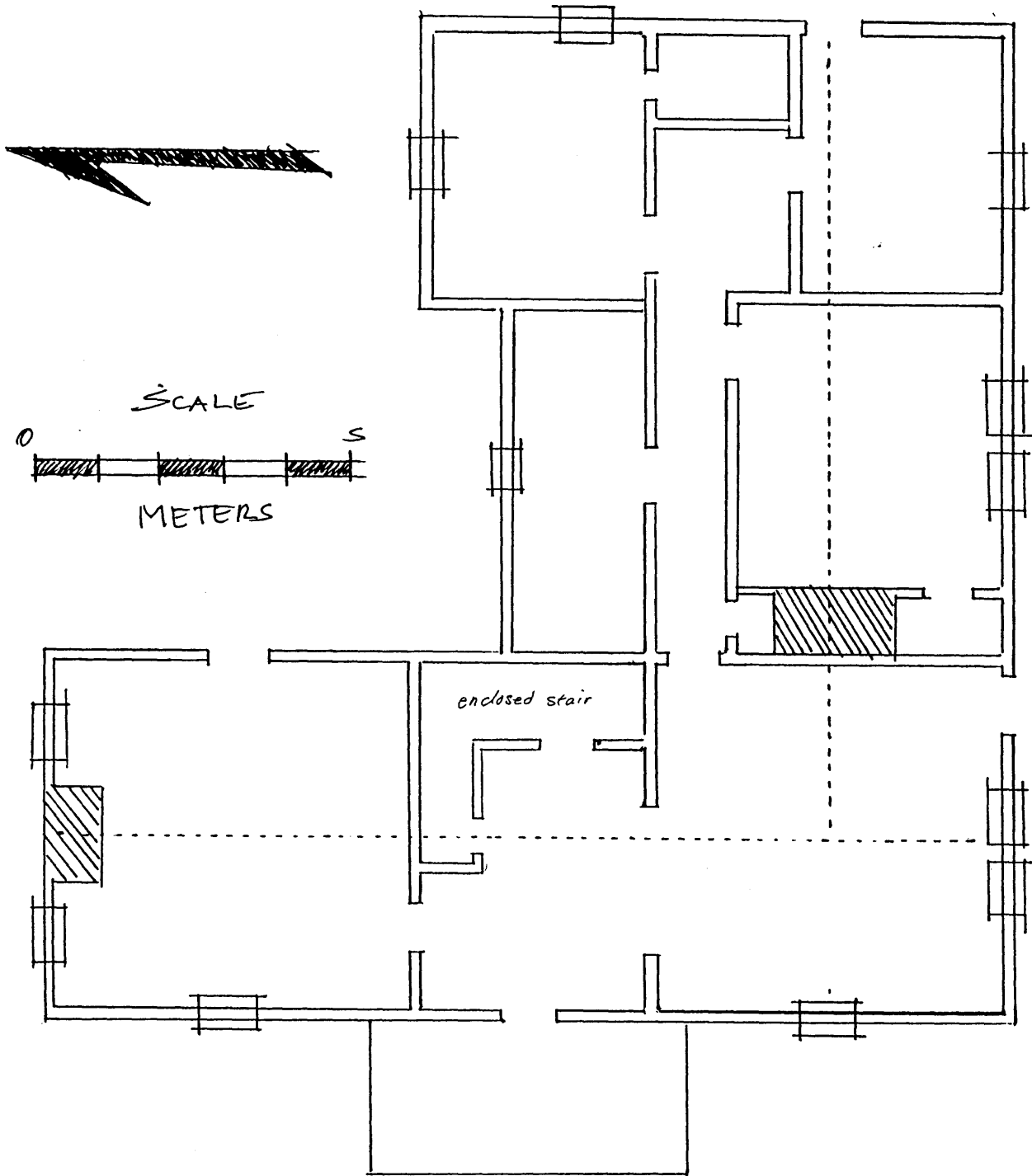
Boundary Justification

This boundary contains the house and the yard immediately surrounding it.



Dr. Joseph M. Bynum House

(ROBBINS HOUSE) RIENZI, ALCORN CO., MS.



Dr. Joseph M. Bynum House

(ROBBINS HOUSE,)

RIENZI, ALCORN Co., MS

UPPER FLOOR

SCALE

