

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Governor's Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

316 East Capitol Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Mississippi

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

Hinds

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Mississippi

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hinds County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Raymond

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936, 1972, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Governor's Mansion of the State of Mississippi is a monumental brick masonry structure of Greek Revival design situated on grounds comprising a city block in the commercial center of Jackson. The architectural feature which dominates and distinguishes the facade is the graceful semicircular portico supported by four giant order Greek Corinthian columns. This portico shape is unusual in domestic architecture of the period and may owe some debt to the one on the south facade of the White House. The rest of the exterior reflects the architect's intention "to avoid a produsion of ornament, and to adhere to a plain republican simplicity, as best comporting with the dignity of the State." (Report to the Committee on Public Buildings, 1840). The bays are articulated by pilasters with scroll caps, paired on the side elevations. Pilasters and portico columns carry a simple well-proportioned cornice with plain frieze and dentil course. The low roof is hidden from view and appears flat. The main block measures 71 x 53 feet and stands two stories on a slightly raised basement. Beneath the central portico is the principal entrance surrounded by a simple eared architrave with low pediment. At the second floor is another doorway fronting a small balcony.

Entry is into an octagonal vestibule which provides circulation to the lower floor. To the east and west are doors opening into the parlors. On the north is the main stairhall approached through a screen of Corinthian columns. There are arched niches on the four plain walls.

The outstanding decorative elements of the interior are the well-carved architraves patterned after designs in Minard Lafever's 1835 edition of the Beauties of Modern Architecture (plates 19 and 26). These architraves are found at the main entrance, on the small doors between vestibule and parlors, and on the large sliding doors which separate the double parlors on the west and the State Dining Room and parlor on the east.

Upstairs is a large hall divided by a central arch, and four bed chambers. At least one original wooden mantel remains here, of simple eared design with applied rosettes, again inspired by a Lafever plate (plate 46).

The house has undergone a series of alterations to accomodate the private and ceremonial requirements of the occupants. Gas was installed and the cornices and medallions altered in 1858. White marble mantels of simple design were installed on the first floor, probably in the late 1860's. The greatest changes have occurred in the twentieth century as a result of political demands that the mansion be either renovated or demolished. In 1908-09 a two-story addition containing private quarters for the governor's family was joined to the rear of the original house. The main stair was removed and rebuilt to provide access to the rear

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1839-41

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Nichols

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Governor William Waller and his family return to the Mississippi Governor's Mansion at the completion of the present restoration, they will be the 37th consecutive first family to occupy the house. Of houses built as governor's mansions and continuing in their original use, only the Virginia Governor's Mansion is older. Few other building types have the continuous historical associations with events on the state, regional, and national levels that characterize governor's mansions. Governors have been among the few elected officials for which citizens have been willing to spend public money to provide a suitable ceremonial residence. Only a small number of houses survive which were constructed for this unique purpose and which have accumulated historical associations through long periods of continuous use. There are only seven such structures remaining from the nineteenth century, four of which were built before the Civil War.

Of the four oldest continuously used governor's mansions, the Mississippi mansion is the most architecturally distinguished. It was designed by English-born architect William Nichols and constructed between 1839 and 1841. Tilghman M. Tucker became the first governor to occupy the mansion in 1842. Nichols was serving as State Architect of Mississippi at the time the mansion was constructed: he was simultaneously supervising the erection of both the State Capitol and the State Penitentiary, both of which he also designed. Very little has previously been known about Nichols. Among the buildings which had long been attributed to him are the Lyceum Building at the University of Mississippi and the President's House, the Gorgas House, and the Observatory at the University of Alabama. Recent extensive research is only now revealing the outlines of a remarkable career which will rank Nichols as a prominent figure in American architecture in the first half of the nineteenth century. He served as state architect (or engineer) in North Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi and was responsible for designing, building, or remodeling Capitol buildings in those states. Ford Peatross of the University of North Carolina, currently preparing a doctoral dissertation on Nichols, has identified over thirty major public buildings and churches which the architect designed. Peatross considers the Mississippi Governor's Mansion to be Nichol's finest work in the domestic Greek Revival style.

One two occasions replacement of the Governor's Mansion became a political issue. On both occasions public support for the retention of the building

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holcomb, Gene, "The Mississippi Governor's Mansion," The Journal of Mississippi History (Jackson: Mississippi Historical Society, 1940), Vol. II, pp. 3-21.

Report from the Committee on Public Buildings to the Legislature, State of Mississippi, February 12, 1840, 9. MDAH collections.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.4

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING				

B

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING				

C

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING				

D

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy B. Schwartz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

March 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Department of the Interior

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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addition, the State Dining Room was enlarged, and bathrooms were added to the upstairs chambers. Also about this time, the crumbling face brick of the mansion was removed and replaced with yellow pressed brick which was painted white in the 1940's. By 1973, the mansion again required thorough refurbishing. The rear addition of 1908, which was structurally unsound, was removed and replaced with a larger steel-frame structure. Although two bays longer than the earlier addition, it is narrower than the main house and visually subordinate to it. The addition repeats the pilaster treatment and cornice line of the original building.

During this renovation it was decided to restore the main block to the period of its construction. Altered trim from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was removed and replaced with period reproductions; the main stair was rebuilt from archeological evidence; and mantels were moved or replaced. Modern heating and air conditioning systems were introduced to replace exposed pipes and room heaters. Although well-intentioned and adequately funded, the project suffered from the lack of an over-all restoration philosophy and the guidance of a full-time restoration architect.

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prevailed, and it was enlarged and refurbished so that it could continue to be used for official functions. Major alterations were carried out in 1908-09 by architect William S. Hull, and again in 1972-75 by the Lewis-Eaton Partnership. The purpose of both these alterations was to provide comfortable and private quarters for the governor's family separate from the more formal public rooms in the original mansion.

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Daniel, Jean Houston and Price, Executive Mansions and Capitols of America.
(Waukesha, Wisc.: Country Beautiful, 1969), 70-71.

Hamblin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America. (London: Oxford University
Press, 1944), 257.

Lafever, Minard, The Beauties of Modern Architecture (New York: D. Appleton
& Co., 1835), pls. 19, 26, and 46.

Interview with Ford Peatross, March 6, 1975.