

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 11 1986

date entered

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

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Raymond & Vicinity Multiple Resource Area (Part. Inv. excluding Archaeological Sites)

2. Location

street & number Township 5 North, Range 2 West, including the town of Raymond N/A not for publication

city, town Raymond N/Avicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Hinds code 49

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government |
| | N/A being considered | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Hinds County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Raymond state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey File has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi 39205

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 <u>N/A</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The topography of Township 5 North, Range 2 West includes gently rolling land that is either heavily wooded or utilized as pasture land and cotton fields. The Natchez Trace Parkway slices through the northwest quarter of the township, but no National Register eligible properties were discovered along this section of the trace. New Highway 18 is another major route. Located in the southern half of the township, it enters T5N, R2W from the southwest and continues northeasterly. A few miles from the township's eastern boundary, Highway 18 meets Highway 20.

Raymond (population: approx. 2,000) is located just north of New Highway 18, near the western edge of the township. With incorporation limits encompassing one square mile, the town includes almost all of Section 20 but also extends into Sections 21, 28 and 29. It is divided by Route 467 (Main Street) which runs from the southeast corner of town through the northwest corner and by the Clinton-Raymond and Port Gibson Roads which run from the northeast corner to the southwest corner. Route 467 intersects these roads at the town square. Clinton-Raymond Road is the northern section of the thoroughfare, while Port Gibson Road is its southern arm. The town square located at this intersection is dominated by a 16,000 gallon water tank, which was placed there in 1903 (Martha Susan McMurchy, "History of Raymond (1876-1976)." Raymond Scrapbook). The earliest development of the town occurred on or near these major roads. It also seems logical to assume that early commercial development centered around the town square and the courthouse. Many of these shops and offices were lost in the 19th century due to fire; however, the Keith Press Building (ca. 1830) remains standing on the square.

Today, the heaviest residential development runs from the center of this square mile to the southeast corner. Hinds Junior College dominates the southeast portion of Raymond. Other recent residential development has occurred along McLendon Drive and its ancillary streets and along Prassel, West Court, Pecan and Gillespie Streets. These are all in the northwest half of Raymond, running off West Main Street.

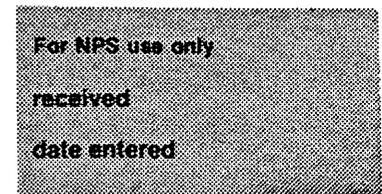
New Highway 18 is dotted with new subdivisions, office buildings and commercial structures. The most intensive recent development is occurring along new Highway 18 and to a lesser degree in the southeast corner of Raymond and along Highway 467 where it leaves the northwest corner of town. Another major development is the John Bell Williams Airport located in Section 4, just north of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Raymond's most prominent and prosperous period was from its founding in 1829 up to the 1860s. The Civil War disrupted the town's economy and it lost its prestige as the county's only seat when Jackson was named as a second county seat in 1869.

The most numerous historic resources in this multiple resource area are its houses which reflect this antebellum prosperity. The Peyton House, (Waverly), located in the northeast corner of Raymond, is already listed in the National Register. Of the six other residences, five are located within Raymond's town limits. They are not clustered together, but scattered throughout the town. The Shelton House is in the northwest corner of the town limits and the Johnson-Harper House is in the southeast section of the community. The other three are within several blocks of the town square. The Lillian Boteler House is one block southwest of the square on Port Gibson Road. The Dupree-Ratliff House and the Gibbs-Von Seutter House lie just west of Main Street and are approximately four blocks northwest of the town square. The Porter Family Homestead lies about four miles southeast of Raymond, to the south of Highway 18.

These houses are all of frame construction, 1 to 1½ stories with a central hall plan. They feature either a portico or an inset gallery and are representative of the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture as they were applied to middle-class housing in antebellum Mississippi.

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Continuation sheet Raymond and vicinity MRA, Raymond, Item number 7 Page 1
Hinds County, Mississippi

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

Other architecturally significant properties dating from the antebellum period are the Hinds County Courthouse (1857-1859) and St. Mark's Episcopal Church (1854-1855). These buildings face Main Street one block northwest of the town square and flank North Oak Street where it forms a junction with West Main Street.

The courthouse, constructed of brick covered with scored stucco, is one of the state's finest Greek Revival public buildings. Across the side street, St. Mark's, a frame vernacular structure, blends Greek Revival and Gothic Revival motifs into its design.

The two late 19th century structures, the depot (ca. 1889) and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (1885), are both located in the second block of East Main Street that is southeast of the town square between Railroad Street and Elm Streets. The depot is on the north side of Main Street at the corner of Railroad and Main. It is a vernacular frame structure. The church is at the corner of Main and Elm Streets. It is an unusually late example of the use of characteristics more commonly associated with vernacular churches of the late Federal period in Mississippi.

The Old Main dormitory (1917) located on Campus Drive of Hinds Junior College in the southeast corner of Raymond is a two story seventeen bay wide, brick structure. It is the only property dating from the early 20th century included in this nomination. The rather straightforward, simple design features classically inspired elements. Up through the mid-20th century, the architects of campus buildings at Hinds Junior College in Raymond relied on Old Main as a prototype for their own designs.

The area encompassed in T5N, R2W is predominantly rural but has been affected by 20th century suburbanization. Approximately sixty percent of the structures in this area (including Raymond) are residential. Another twenty percent serve predominantly as commercial and office space. Fifteen percent of the buildings in this area are used for educational and religious purposes. The remaining five percent are farm outbuildings, and other support facilities.

This survey of Raymond and surrounding area (namely T5N, R2W) was conducted in response to the proposed construction of a new post office near Raymond's town square. An intensive survey of the architectural and historical properties in the entire area of T5N, R2W was completed in order to help determine what impact, if any, this new construction would have on the community's historic resources. The field survey and historical research was undertaken by Susan Enzweiler, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The project was supervised by Richard Cawthon, chief architectural historian for the department. The criteria for this survey required that any building, structure or site over fifty years old be surveyed. If it had retained its architectural integrity and was significant in terms of the important themes in the area's history, it was included in the MRA. All of these buildings are privately owned, except for the courthouse and the Old Main dormitory, which are publicly owned.

Nominated Properties

12 individual properties

Contributing Elements

12 buildings

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 ca. 1836- 1926 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Township 5 North, Range 2 West's significance is based on the fact that Raymond, the only community in the township, was the county's political and social center during the antebellum period and, to a somewhat lesser extent, up to the early 20th century. The township lies approximately ten miles west of Jackson's present-day incorporation limits. Raymond is primarily significant as a relatively intact and largely preserved example of an antebellum county seat of rural Mississippi. Founded in 1829, the town possesses architecturally significant examples of residential, public, commercial and religious buildings dating from that period, as well as one institutional structure which is representative of an important, early twentieth century, rural education movement in the state. Though still largely rural in character, the township has experienced a fair amount of development as suburbanization slowly spreads outward from Jackson. There are currently no local preservation ordinances to protect the area's historic resources. However, the people of Raymond are proud of their resources, particularly the courthouse, and enthusiastically support this nomination. The owners of the Greek Revival farmhouse (Porter Family Homestead) which lies outside Raymond are also committed to preserving their building. As suburbanization and development continue to spread in T5N, R2W this grass roots support for preservation may germinate into effective local ordinances.

There are no districts included in this multiple resource area. T5N, R2W does not contain any districts outside of Raymond. The farms scattered throughout the area are not architecturally or historically significant. Concentrations of buildings consist of either modern subdivisions or clusters of small frame shacks. While Raymond itself has several significant properties, they are scattered throughout the town. In other words, the properties that meet the National Register criteria are not contiguous to each other. Yet they help in interpreting a significant chapter in Hinds County history.

Mississippi was admitted into the Union in 1817 as the 20th state. By the 1820s, one of the most rapidly developing areas was located east of Natchez and the Mississippi River, west of the Pearl River and south of the Big Black River. This New Purchase territory was not part of the original Natchez District but had belonged to the Choctaw Indians. It was opened to white settlement by the Treaty of Doak's Stand in 1820 (Porter L. Fortune, Jr., "The Formative Period." A History of Mississippi (2 vols.) ed. by Richard Aubrey McLemore, p. 252 and Doak's Stand Treaty Site, Madison Co., National Register File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

Andrew Jackson appointed three commissioners -- John B. Peyton, John A. Fairchild and Levi Bankston -- to survey part of this territory into counties. For Hinds County, they were also instructed to choose a site near its center for the county seat.

Thus, Raymond was plotted and incorporated as the seat of Hinds County in 1829. The true center of the county was on low, swampy land near Snake Creek. The commissioners agreed to locate the new town on a nearby ridge owned by Raymond Roberts (or Robinson) of Clinton. He offered to donate the one square mile for the county seat if it were named for him.

Raymond prospered and gained prominence because of its position as the county seat. The May 20, 1903, edition of The Daily Clarion-Ledger, in describing Hinds County during the

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property see individual survey forms

Quadrangle name Clinton, MS, New Byram, MS, Raymond, MS,

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References Terry NW, MS.

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| B | <u>1</u> <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| C | <u>1</u> <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| D | <u>1</u> <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| E | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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|---|-------------------|---|---|
| F | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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|---|-------------------|---|---|
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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|---|-------------------|---|---|
| H | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Township 5 North, Range 2 West

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler, Architectural Historian

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

date Dec. 1985

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi 39205

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: All nominated properties have local significance except #5 and #10 which have state-level significance.
N/A 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

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 5, 1986

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

Amy Schlager

date

7/15/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: See Contin. sheet for listings
Chief of Registration

date

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#8 - SIGNIFICANCE

1840s, related that Amsterdam, Clinton and Raymond were the three leading centers. The reporter, S.S. Prentiss, wrote that "Amsterdam [was] the seat of commerce, Clinton the seat of learning and Raymond the seat of justice" (S.S. Prentiss, The Daily Clarion-Ledger, May 20, 1903, p.5). Raymond retained this distinction until 1869 when the county was divided into two Judicial Districts with Jackson as the county seat of the 1st and Raymond serving the 2nd (No Author, Raymond Scrapbook [Raymond: compiled 1976]). Jackson had been founded as the state capital in 1821, but was not a county seat prior to 1869.

Of course, Raymond's role in county government is signified by its courthouse, built ca. 1857-1859. The building was designed and constructed by George and Tom Weldon. These Scotch-Irish immigrants were "Architects and Builders of unquestioned skill, enterprise and integrity" (Beth Ferguson, Raymond: A History...1821-1876 [no publisher: no date], p. 4; and Hinds County Gazette, [Raymond, Miss.], Nov. 16, 1859). They trained 100 slaves in construction techniques and built many courthouses and residences throughout the state including the old Warren County Courthouse in Vicksburg which was declared a National Landmark in 1969 (Ferguson, p. 4 and Old Courthouse, Warren Co., National Register File. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

Raymond's Greek Revival courthouse with its stately columns and classically inspired details was an attempt by the citizens of Raymond to prevent the county seat's removal to Jackson. The first courthouse, built ca. 1831, was described by George Harper, the editor of the Hinds County Gazette, as "a strangely-constructed building with a spire running heavenward, with a roof of bright tin that sparkled in the sun and fairly dimmed the eyes of those beholding it" (Raymond Scrapbook). In 1855, Harper was urging his fellow Raymondites to support the construction of a new courthouse so as to finally end the debate over moving the county seat to Jackson (George Harper, Hinds County Gazette, Dec. 26, 1855). Two years later, on March 25, 1857, Harper happily reported that the courthouse foundation was completed and all the brick needed for the project was ready. The structure, he predicted, "will be an ornament to the village, and a monument of the good taste, public spirit and liberality of the people of Hinds County" (George Harper, Hinds County Gazette, March 25, 1857).

Office buildings, hotels and shops sprang up to accommodate the lawyers and others who poured into Raymond on court days. Very few of these structures remain and those that do have lost most of their architectural integrity. One notable exception is the Keith Press Building. Constructed ca. 1830, it served as the first Probate Office (Mrs. Hugh B. Gillespie, "The Town of Raymond." Raymond Scrapbook, p. 3). As far as is known, this structure is one of the earliest buildings remaining in Raymond. Its alterations include a metal awning over the front entrances, one-over-one double-hung aluminum sash windows and the removal of the stairs on the southeast facade. However, this building of Flemish bond construction still retains its basic form and such architectural details as stone lintels and lugsills and brick corbelling.

Antebellum Raymond depended on cotton, lawyers and mineral water for its livelihood. By 1830 the New Purchase region, of which Hinds County was a part, rivalled the white population of the Natchez District in numbers. The plantation system was already evolving in this part of the state (Fortune, p. 252).

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As early as 1839, a railroad was built between Raymond and Bolton which intersected with the line running from Vicksburg to Jackson (although this railroad line would not be completed until the following year). The cars carried cotton and other cargo, along with passengers (Raymond Depot, Hinds Co., Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). Raymond was an agricultural town with its prosperity solidly resting on King Cotton (Ferguson, p. 5). In addition, lawyers, their clients and others who came to town on court days generated a brisk trade for Raymond's merchants and hotelkeepers. A few health resorts also sprang up near the community. The two best known during the 1840s were Mississippi Springs and Cooper's Wells. Guests especially came to drink the mineral water but also participated in other activities (Ferguson, p. 3 and Cooper's Wells, Hinds Co., Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). Unfortunately, none of these hotels or summer resort buildings are left standing.

Perhaps the most charming aspect of Raymond is its antebellum homes. Seven are included in this multiple resource area--a sizeable number in a community this small. The Peyton House, known as Waverly, is already individually listed on the National Register. The other houses under discussion are all located within the incorporation limits of Raymond, except for the Porter Family Homestead which is located approximately four miles southeast of the town. As a group, the houses are 1 to 1 1/2 stories and five bays wide with a central hall plan. Because of its addition, the Shelton House is now eight bays wide but physical evidence indicates that it was originally five. The broad sides of the houses face the street. All have classically inspired architectural elements. The Gibbs-Von Seutter House, built ca. 1836, has elements from both the Federal and Greek Revival styles, while the other, houses are in the Greek Revival style of architecture. Three of the buildings (the Gibbs-Von Seutter House, the Shelton House and the Porter Family Homestead) feature inset galleries. The other three structures (the Dupree-Ratliff House, the Johnson-Harper House and the Lillian Boteler House) have porticos encompassing the three front, central bays. All six houses are of frame construction and sheathed in clapboard, with the exterior wall located in the porch area being covered in flushboard. The exception to this is the Dupree-Ratliff House for its portico wall exhibits horizontal paneling. This particular house has also had its roof altered. A fire in the late 1920s destroyed the original low, hip roof and it was replaced by a gable roof (Don Shearer, interviewed by Susan M. Enzweiler, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Raymond, Miss., Oct. 18, 1985). These structures have retained their architectural integrity and are indicative of middle-class housing in antebellum Raymond.

The Johnson-Harper House takes on additional significance because it was the home of George W. Harper, editor of the Hinds County Gazette, from 1861 until approximately just after the turn-of-the-century. He, together with J. S. Mason of the Port Gibson Reveille and Thomas Grafton of the Natchez Democrat, were the three most renowned and respected nineteenth-century newspaper editors in Mississippi (No Author, A History of Raymond United Methodist Church and the Town of Raymond, Mississippi (1837 to 1971) [No publisher, no date], p. 12).

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church dates from approximately the same time as most of the antebellum houses under discussion. This church, constructed in 1854-1855, is a well-executed example of a vernacular structure which utilizes both Greek Revival and Gothic Revival motifs. St. Mark's congregation was organized in 1837 by Rev. James McGregor Dale. Over fifteen years later, the Episcopalians finally had their own church (The Mississippi Historical Records Survey Project, Inventory of the Church Archives of Mississippi: Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Mississippi [Jackson: no publisher, 1940], p. 48-49 and The Rev. Valentine Hunter Sessions, D.D., Short Histories of St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Brandon, MS), St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Raymond, MS), St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (Clinton, MS) [No city; no publisher, 1937], p. 33).

The peace and prosperity of Raymond were shattered by tragedy in the late 1850s and by the Civil War. On December 8, 1858, a fire broke out in a dry goods store, destroying twenty-one buildings (Gillespie, p. 9). Among these was George Harper's newspaper office, but the type was saved (George Harper, Hinds County Gazette, April 13, 1859). The campaign of Vicksburg brought the Civil War to Raymond on May 12, 1863, when Confederate General John Gregg's forces engaged Union General Ulysses S. Grant's troops about 2 1/2 miles southwest of the town. The Confederates were routed and the Federals occupied Raymond (Raymond Battlefield, Hinds Co., National Register File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

Confederate casualties from the battle were 73 killed, 251 wounded and 190 missing. The Union forces sustained casualties of 69 killed, 341 wounded and 32 missing (Raymond Battlefield). Consequently, many buildings in Raymond became temporary hospitals. Charles F. Vogel of Company E, 29th Mo. Vols. Infantry recorded in his diary that "the courthouse and churches [were] used as hospitals for wounded on both sides..." (Charles F. Vogel Diary, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). According to local tradition, several other buildings also housed the wounded. The Dupree-Ratliff House is specifically cited in the WPA Guide as being used as a Union hospital (Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State [New York: no publisher, 1938], p. 392). It seems that the usage of so many buildings as hospitals prevented the Union troops from burning Raymond. In any case, Grant ordered Major General McClernard, the commander of the 13th Army Corps, to post a Provost Guard to "see that prisoners and hospitals are properly protected--and that soldiers [are] prevented from entering and pillaging houses" (Ulysses S. Grant papers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

Nevertheless, Raymond suffered because of the war. Its one crop economy based on cotton was ruined. This sad fact was perhaps most poignantly expressed by the Hinds County Gazette on August 16, 1871: "The basest fraud on earth is agriculture. No wonder Cain killed his brother. He was a tiller of the ground. Agriculture would demoralize a saint (Ferguson, p. 9). According to Ferguson, Raymond did not regain the same level of prosperity it had enjoyed in the antebellum years until the twentieth century (Ferguson, p. 13).

Indeed, the late nineteenth century must have held some very hard years for the people of Raymond. And yet, there were some bright spots. For example, they did not completely

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lose their status as a county seat. Also, Cooper's Wells remained a fashionable summer resort, being known as the Saratoga of the South. A Mr. Spengler from Vicksburg bought the property in 1884. During his ownership, the resort accommodated 5,000 people per season. The complex consisted of a main building containing a large dining hall; a bachelors' hall with a casino; a dance pavilion and steam baths (Martha Susan McMurchy, "History of Raymond (1876-1976)." Raymond Scrapbook). A history of Mississippi published in 1891 described Raymond as having "good schools, good society, good water; and the ministers look after the spiritual affairs of the people. The business men...are spirited, enterprising and progressive,..." (No Author, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi (2 vols.) [Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891], Vol. 2, Part I, p. 185).

The buildings remaining from late nineteenth-century Raymond are not nearly as impressive nor architecturally intact as the community's antebellum structures. Two exceptions to this rule are the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the old depot.

The church built in 1885 is an unusually late example of the use of characteristics more commonly associated with vernacular churches of the late Federal period in Mississippi. The construction of this church was the culmination of a fourteen year effort by the Bishop of Natchez and the Catholics of Raymond to secure a place of worship. The contractor was Russell Patrick of Vicksburg and the painting was done by a Professor Grace. In his dedication of the church on September 6, 1885, Bishop Francis Janssens named it the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It retained this name until 1923, when the church was renamed Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (Father O'Beirne's Notes, Catholic Diocesan Chancery Archives, Jackson and Index to Diocesan Archives (Natchez) 1837-1941, Vol. IX, P-Rom, Catholic Diocesan Chancery Archives, Jackson).

A more utilitarian structure is the old depot which now houses an insurance office and a pottery shop. A railroad from Jackson to Natchez that ran through Raymond was constructed in 1887 (McMurchy). It is believed that this building was erected two years later. There was a Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Station in Raymond in 1898 which may have been this depot. The Illinois Central Railroad had purchased the Y and MV Railroad Company six years previously. The line became known as the Little J. Passenger cars were removed from this line in 1945 and the train discontinued its stops at Raymond. The depot was used for storage until 1970 when it was closed permanently (Raymond Depot). As the county seat and the agricultural transfer point for the surrounding countryside, railroads were important to Raymond's development. The town had to be readily accessible. The depot, though a rather simple structure, is the only remnant from this significant aspect of Raymond's history.

Another aspect of transportation, coupled with the beginning of consolidated schools, had an important and lasting impact on Raymond in the early twentieth-century. The development of a good highway system, along with consolidated schools, led to the demise of agricultural high schools. However, several of the state's educational leaders proposed a plan to use these physical plants as junior colleges (Richard Aubrey McLemore, "Higher Education in the Twentieth Century." A History of Mississippi (2 vols.) edited by Richard Aubrey McLemore, p. 424).

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An agricultural high school with a faculty of eight had been established in Raymond in 1916 (McMurchy and Hinds Junior College, Hinds Co., Subject File. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). The original campus was comprised of four buildings--the Administration Building, a barn and two dormitories known as Shangri-La and Main. Today, only Main, now known as Old Main, is left standing (Hinds Junior College and no author, "Board Discusses the Plight of Main Hall," Hinds Junior College District Newsletter, March 1985, p. 1).

This school was the local culmination of a national drive for agricultural education that had begun in the mid-nineteenth century. The Morrill Act of 1862 established land grant colleges in order to teach agricultural skills but these were unsuccessful because agriculture was taught with general science courses rather than as a separate subject and thus the students received little real training. Also, the majority of rural youth were unable to attend college. Renewed interest in teaching agricultural studies at the high school level blossomed in the late 1800s. (Carolyn Porter, The Agricultural High Schools in Mississippi, [No city; no publisher, 1974], p. 1).

County agricultural high schools were established in Mississippi by an act of the state legislature in 1908. This act was amended in 1910. The latter act required each county agricultural high school to be placed on twenty acres and to have housing and dining facilities for at least forty students in order to be eligible for state funding. The schools were mainly supported by county funds. In 1916, though, the legislature amended the law and enabled the state to appropriate as much as \$2,500 a year to any county agricultural high school enrolling over forty boarding students (Porter, p. 8 and 26; and Alfred Benjamin Butts, A.M., "Public Administration in Mississippi." Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Centenary Series 3:259). It seems likely that the construction of Shangri-La and Main dormitories was essential not only for students' needs but to also help the new-founded school secure funding.

Other legislation required each county agricultural high school to have a dairy, a poultry farm, an incubator, hogs, an orchard and a model garden, in addition to a vegetable garden and several demonstration farming plots, plus a laundry and a cannery. If any of the support buildings for these activities were constructed at Hinds County agricultural high school, none of them remains.

A year of college work was added to the school's curriculum in 1922-1923. This was possible because of the efforts of President Robert Edward Lee Sutherland of Hinds Junior College and President James Andrew Huff of Pearl River Junior College who persuaded the state legislature to authorize the establishment of junior colleges in 1922. In 1926, with the addition of a second year of college work, Hinds Junior College was officially established (Hinds Junior College and McLemore, p. 424-425).

Old Main is significant because it contributes to the sense of time and place on campus. Though rather unadorned in its execution, the structure is representative of classically-inspired buildings from the early twentieth-century and as such, it provides the last remaining early prototype for the typical campus building at Hinds. This

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prototype combined a shaped/ornamented parapet and classical portico or porch with a cornice encircling the building. Examples of campus buildings that follow this prototype include the Auditorium Building (1926), the Administration Building (1951), Harris-Patrick Hall and Allen-Whittaker Hall (Tomás Blackwell, historical architect with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, inspection of Hinds Junior College Campus, Raymond, November 1985).

In summary, the events that took place in Raymond and vicinity during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had a significant impact on Hinds County's history. The properties being nominated have retained their architectural character and reflect important themes in the area's history.

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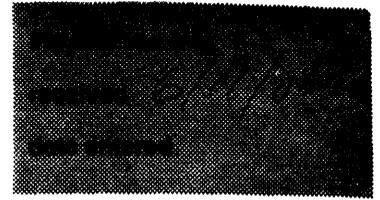
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Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Raymond & Vicinity MRA
State Hinds County, MS

cover A Schlager 7/15/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Boteler, Lillian, House

~~Submitted~~

Keeper

A Schlager 7/15/86

Attest

2. Church of the Nativity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary

Substantive Review

Keeper

A Schlager 7/15/86

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

3. Dupree-Ratliff House

~~Submitted~~

Keeper

A Schlager 7/15/86

Attest

4. Gibbs--Von Seutter House

~~Submitted~~

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

5. Hinds County Courthouse

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

6. Illinois Central Railroad
Depot

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

7. Keith Press Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

8. Main Hall

~~Submitted~~

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

9. Phoenix Hall--Johnson-
Harper House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

10. Porter Family Homestead

~~Submitted~~

Keeper

Melrose Byers 7/15/86

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Raymond & Vicinity MRA
State Hinds County, MS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. St. Mark's Episcopal Church *Entered in the
National Register*

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrd 7/15/86

Attest

12. Shelton House *Entered in the
National Register*

for
Keeper

Shelton Byrd 7/15/86

Attest

13.

Keeper

Attest

14.

Keeper

Attest

15.

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