

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Aberdeen City Hall, reference number 88000126 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 02/22/1988, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of 03/04/1988. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.



Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Aberdeen City Hall

and/or common Aberdeen City Hall

2. Location

street & number 125 W. Commerce St.

N/A not for publication

city, town Aberdeen

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

code

28

county

Monroe

code

095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Aberdeen

street & number 125 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen

N/A vicinity of

state MS 39730

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chancery Clerk Building

street & number 201 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen

state MS 39730

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Miss. Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986

federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state MS 39205

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Aberdeen City Hall is an impressive Neo-Classical/Beaux Arts Classical building dominated by a projecting Ionic tetrastyle portico. The street (north and west) elevations of the building are sheathed in buff brick and marked by wide but shallow piers interspaced with recessed areas containing windows. These facades are crowned by a full entablature with a parapet above it. This irregularly-massed, two story, five-by-five-bay building rests on a high, smooth dressed stone foundation. The foundation windows are protected by metal clathri.

The portico on the front (north) elevation features four massive, fluted Ionic columns whose treatment is echoed by the four pilasters positioned behind them. Above each of the three entrances within the portico area is a semicircular stuccoed area accented by a wreath-like garland. The entrances contained in the outer bays of the portico are comprised of multi-light French doors, while the wooden double doors of the central entrance have horizontal panes of glass in their upper sections. Originally, these central doors were simply panelled with no lights. The bottom panels, which display an X motif, remain while the upper panels have been replaced by glass. On the second story within the portico area, each of the three large, round-arched, multi-light windows is guarded by a decorative metal balustrade. The parapet above the portico has a slightly projecting central panel accented by a cartouche.

The outer bays of the front facade contain casement windows on the first floor and multi-light round-arched windows on the second story. Panelling accents the space between the windows.

This same window treatment is repeated in the three northernmost bays of the west elevation. Each of the two rear bays of this facade contains a modern entrance comprised of a glass and anodized metal door capped by a massive overdoor. While these are unsympathetic alterations, they do not greatly compromise the integrity of the building. Above each of these rear entrances, separated by horizontal panelling, is a second story, multi-light, tripartite window.

Extending back a short distance from the front facade the same buff brick, second story round-arched window, entablature and parapet as on the street elevations wraps around the east facade. Otherwise, the east and also the south (rear) facade have a red brick wall treatment. The majority of the windows on the east facade are two-over-two, double hung sash with plain wooden surrounds.

There was no formal landscaping around City Hall. In an early photograph dated c. 1918-1919, no plantings are visible, except for two potted plants - one at each corner of the front facade. Today, shrubbery is planted close to the foundation along the street elevations.

Nominated Properties

1 individual property

Contributing Elements

1 building

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

Specific dates 1912

Builder/Architect William Drago (from New Orleans)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Aberdeen's City Hall ranks as one of the finest early twentieth century city halls in Mississippi. William Drago, the architect, masterfully combined Neo-Classical and Beaux-Arts classical elements into a sophisticated example of early twentieth century governmental architecture. The building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

Aberdeen's City Hall is one of eight Neo-Classical or Neo-Classical/Beaux-Arts city halls built between 1902 and 1923 in Mississippi that have been identified in our office's inventory files. These eight buildings are located in Aberdeen (constructed 1912), Brookhaven (1910), Clarksdale (1916), Greenville (1920), Gulfport (1906), Hattiesburg (1923), Meridian (1914-1915) and Vicksburg (1902). All of them are Neo-Classical in character, with Aberdeen's, Greenville's, and Vicksburg's also displaying Beaux-Art influence. Two other classical city halls constructed during this period are Bay St. Louis', a Colonial Revival Building from 1905, and Columbus', a Georgian Revival structure dated 1903. However, these latter two city halls do not possess the monumentality inherent in the designs of the other eight.

Four of these city halls - Aberdeen, Greenville, Gulfport and Hattiesburg - have two story, projecting tetrastyle porticoes gracing their front elevations. Three of these four have Ionic columns. The fourth, Gulfport, had Corinthian columns, but the capitals have been removed. The Gulfport and Hattiesburg City Halls feature pedimented gables, while Aberdeen's and Greenville's have an entablature and a parapet concealing either a flat roof or low-pitched hip roof. Brookhaven's slightly projecting, one story portico is more like a stoop in scale and massing. Its two Doric columns, though, support an entablature and a decorative balustrade. Clarksdale's and Meridian's City Halls have no porticoes. The slightly projecting, central front bay of Clarksdale's City Hall contains a single entrance with an eared surround. An entablature serving as a beltcourse between the first and second stories has panelling and an engaged balustrade above it in this bay. The building's main entablature is accented in this bay by a panelled parapet above it and below it, another panelled area displaying swags. Meridian's City Hall has front steps leading up to three main entrances interspaced between engaged Ionic columns. The portico of Vicksburg's City Hall is set in antis between the end bays of the front elevation. Its ground level parapet and its entablature have convex curves. The columns which rest on the parapet support the entablature.

All of the city halls are crowned by an entablature and a

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Aberdeen, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	5	7	0	5	5	3	7	4	3	6	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel Number 108-J-34-001-007-00 as recorded in the Numerical Index located in the Chancery Clerk's Office.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler - Architectural Historian

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

date September 1987

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state MS 39205

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 6, 1988

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

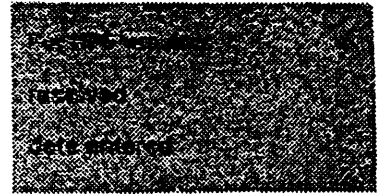
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Aberdeen City Hall, Aberdeen

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#8 - SIGNIFICANCE

parapet, except for Gulfport's which has a hip roof pierced by gables above its entablature. Visible above the parapet of Vicksburg's City Hall are three domes and at least two gable-roofed structures. Originally, atop each dome stood a trumpeting angel. These have since been removed. At Greenville, urns accent the panels of the parapet that are above the entrances.

Of the three city halls which display a Beaux-Arts influence - Aberdeen's, Greenville's and Vicksburg's - the latter is the most exuberant example of the style. The stately proportions of Aberdeen's City Hall, however, combine such Beaux-Arts details as round-arched windows with linteled openings and elevations divided into advancing and receding planes with Neo-Classical features like single columns and garland motifs. The City Hall, taken as a whole, is an understated expression of early twentieth century classicism. It ranks as one of the finest early twentieth century city halls in the state because of its design and its architectural integrity.

#9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites Files.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Mississippi Landmark Files.