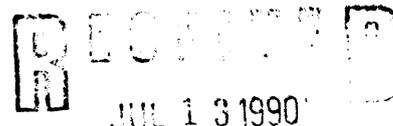


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ocean Springs Public School
other names/site number Old Ocean Springs High School

2. Location

street & number 1600 Government Street N/A not for publication
city, town Ocean Springs N/A vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Jackson code 059 zip code 39564

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Ocean Springs MRA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Kenneth H. P'Pool JUNE 22, 1990
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
MS Department of Archives and History
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Amy Lederman 8/2/90
 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:) _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Other: English Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof (Not visible)

other Stone detailing

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Old Ocean Springs Public School is a symmetrical, two-story masonry building which faces north on a large, grassy lot. It is roughly T-shaped in plan, with the stem of the T formed by an auditorium wing at the rear. The end bays of the principal facade project forward from the plane of the front wall. The flat roof is concealed behind a continuous parapet.

The stylistic character of the building is eclectic, combining English Renaissance elements with abstract patterned brickwork typical of the 1920s. The English Renaissance elements are largely confined to the central portion of the facade. This area is surmounted by a Jacobean curvilinear parapet. The main entrance, reached by a short set of steps, is a double-leaf door with a rectangular transom, surrounded by an elaborate cast-stone frontispiece featuring rich moldings, an engaged balustrade forming a false balconet, and a large second-story tripartite window surmounted by a broken pediment. The composition of this frontispiece is similar to that at Thorpe Hall in Hampshire, England (built 1653-56) (c.f. John Summerson, Architecture in Britain [Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin Books, 1977], p.166, figure 122). The surround of the upper window, with its broken curved pediment and unusual guttae-trimmed brackets, resembles one at Kirby Hall, Northamptonshire (1572) (Summerson, p.49, figure 23). While these English manor houses may not have been the models for those elements, the resemblance nonetheless indicates the English Renaissance character of the design. Other Renaissance elements in the design include the cartouches atop the windows flanking the frontispiece and the urns adorning the parapet.

The walls of the building are finished in stucco extensively trimmed with bands of red brick in decorative patterns with cast-stone corner blocks, which frame the numerous windows, mostly nine-over-nine double-hung, placed singly and in sets of four or five. The walls rest upon a continuous foundation of red brick.

The interior plan is very simple, consisting of a single transverse corridor on each floor with classrooms along either side and an auditorium, with balcony, opening off the corridor to the rear of

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the building. At each end of the corridor are stairs and exterior doors. A short hallway leads from the main entrance to the central corridor. The interior is finished in a simple, utilitarian manner, except in the entrance hall, which contains two ceramic tile panels by James ("Mac") Anderson and in the auditorium, which contains several mural panels painted by Walter Anderson. The murals are to be moved soon to a new Walter Anderson museum for proper care and enhanced accessibility.

In recent years two new school buildings have been built behind the old school, facing the two side streets, but these buildings are far enough away that they do not intrude visually, and they are not included within the nominated property. These new buildings are linked to the old school by concrete walks covered by nonhistoric wood and metal canopies. These canopies, one of which is shown in photo 3, are only minor visual intrusions and do not significantly detract from the integrity of the building. (Being mere appendages to the building, they are not counted as separate noncontributing structures.)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Nolan, William T., of New Orleans,
Louisiana (architect)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Old Ocean Springs Public School is architecturally significant to the City of Ocean Springs as an excellent example of the architectural eclecticism of the 1920s and as an accomplished and intact example of the larger urban-type all-grade schools and high schools built in Mississippi in the 1920s. It has long been Ocean Springs' most architecturally prominent public building.

Stylistically, the building is an eclectic interpretation of the English Renaissance architecture of the Elizabethan and Stuart periods. This English Renaissance style, much more classical in its form and detailing than the late medieval style generally referred to as "Tudor" and broader in its sources of inspiration than the so-called "Jacobethan" style, was sometimes employed by American architects in the 1910s and 20s in designs for schools, colleges, and libraries. The Old Ocean Springs School exhibits stylistic features which appear to be drawn from English manor houses from the 1570s to the 1650s.

Architectural surveys and research conducted by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History have thus far identified some twenty surviving examples of the larger urban-type schools of the 1910s and 20s. These are two- or three-story brick buildings, often with T- or E-shaped plans, built either as high schools or as all-grade schools. They tend to be larger than schools built specifically for the elementary grades and are larger and more architecturally elaborate than most rural consolidated schools of the period. Of the twenty examples identified, only four are substantially Tudor in style, and the Old Ocean Springs School is the only example of the more classical English Renaissance style. The other larger urban-type schools of this period generally display Classical Revival or Prairie-Style characteristics, or have more loosely eclectic designs.

See continuation sheet

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The versatility of the architect, William T. Nolan of New Orleans, can be appreciated by comparing this building with the other two works he is known to have executed in Mississippi. The Bay St. Louis High School (1926) is identical in its overall plan to the Ocean Springs School, but expresses the Spanish Colonial style in its detailing and surface materials. The Edwards Hotel (1923) in Jackson is a high-rise interpretation of an Italian palazzo.

The auditorium of the Ocean Springs School contains several murals by noted Ocean Springs artist Walter Anderson. However, because these murals are to be removed soon to a new Walter Anderson museum for proper curation and enhanced accessibility, they are not being cited as a basis for National Register eligibility.

After serving for many years as a school, the building now houses offices for the school district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Resources Inventory Files - Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx 1.5 acres

UTM References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian (based on earlier nomination)
organization Miss. Department of Archives and History date May 8, 1990 Prepared by Brian Berggren, 1986
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205

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Ocean Springs Public School
Ocean Springs, Jackson County
Mississippi

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of a tract located on lots 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 2 and 3 of the Col. W. R. Stuart survey on page 11 of the City of Ocean Springs Map adopted by the Board of Aldermen. The tract is bounded by Ward Avenue on the west, Government Street on the north, and Magnolia Avenue on the east; the southern boundary defined as a line parallel to the rear wall of the building extending from Ward Avenue to a point 20 feet south of the rearmost wall of the main block of the building and 20 feet west of the western wall of the auditorium wing, then southward to a point 20 feet south of the southern wall of the auditorium wing, then eastward to a point 20 feet east of the east wall of the auditorium wing, then northward to a point 20 feet south of the rearmost wall of the main block, and extending thence westward to Magnolia Avenue. The boundaries are shown on the enclosed sketch map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contained within the boundary described above contains the Old School building and its surrounding grounds extending to the streets on the west, north, and east sides, but excludes two newer, nonhistoric buildings located to the southeast and southwest of the Old School. This boundary recognizes the historic setting of the school with respect to the street, but excludes nonhistoric buildings located to the rear of the Old School.

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Photographs
Section number _____ Page _____

Ocean Springs Public School
Ocean Springs, Jackson County
Mississippi

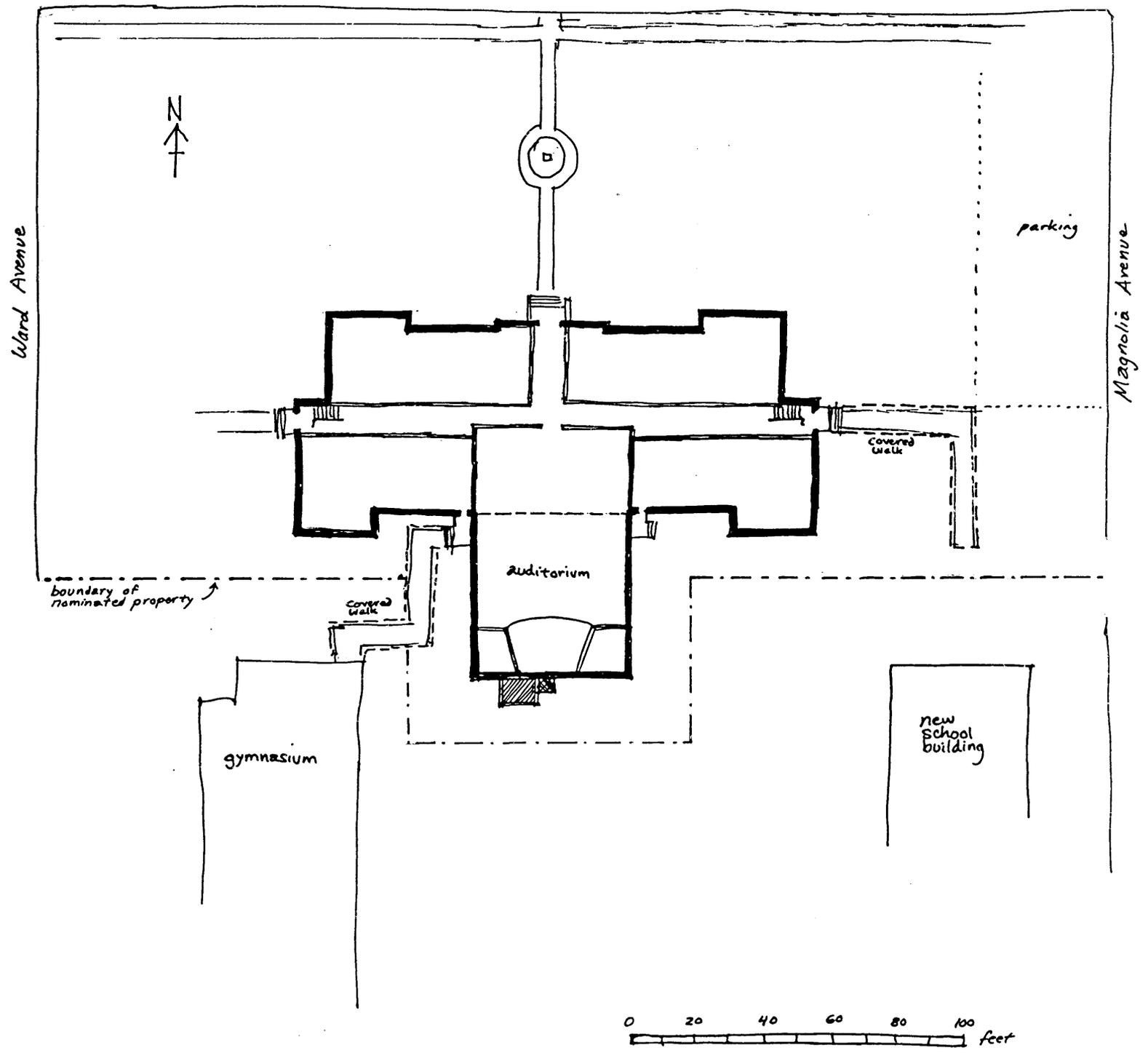
The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Ocean Springs Public School
2. Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi
3. Photos by Richard J. Cawthon
4. August 1989
5. Negatives: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

The photographs are identified as follows:

- Photo 1 - Front (north facade, viewed from northwest
Photo 2 - Central portion of front facade, viewed from northwest
Photo 3 - East side of building, showing covered walkway, viewed
from southeast
Photo 4 - First story corridor, looking westward.

Government Street



Old Ocean Springs
Public School
Jackson County,
Mississippi

SKETCH PLAN
OF BUILDING
AND GROUNDS