

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Welty House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 741 N. Congress St. _____ not for publication

city, town Jackson _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Fourth

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"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 Morris and McDaniel, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 104

city, town Jackson _____ vicinity of _____ state Mississippi 39205

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 316 President St.

city, town Jackson _____ state Mississippi 39201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson _____ state Mississippi 39205

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Welty House is situated on the west side of North Congress Street, in a neighborhood which comprises one of the earliest and most architecturally cohesive urban residential streets in the city of Jackson. The two-and-a-half-story three-by-three-bay frame structure is set back approximately twenty feet from the street and shaded by oak, magnolia and pecan trees.

The front (east) elevation of the Bungalow-style structure features a classically inspired first-floor porch with a rock-faced concrete-block foundation wall, step ends, and column piers. Four Tuscan columns support a full entablature. A wooden porch rail, no longer extant, will be rebuilt during the ongoing rehabilitation of the house. The first-floor exterior is clap-boarded, contrasting with the wood-shingle siding used on the second floor. A modified-Palladian window and projecting bay window are asymmetrically placed above the front porch; the Palladian window is surmounted by a gabled dormer which serves as an attic ventilator for the pyramidal-roof structure. An oriel window is situated on the central bay of the north elevation. With the exception of the Palladian window, fenestration throughout consists of double-hung sash, with single-pane lower sash and diamond-patterned upper sash. A two-bay two-story porch, now enclosed, is located on the rear (west) elevation.

The interior consists of a northeast-corner hall providing access to the living room (southeast), former kitchen (northwest), and dining room (southwest). A double-run stair rises to a central hall with paired chambers front and rear. The former second-floor sleeping porch was converted into a kitchen during the early 1950s when the house was divided into apartments. The four original mantelpieces, which were custom ordered by Christian Welty, are intact. Manufactured by the King Mantel Company of Knoxville, Tennessee, each individually styled mantel features paired columns supporting a heavy shelf, and is set in a tiled-brick hearth. Window and door frames have flat-faced architraves, and lintels with molded backbands.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention					

Specific dates 1908

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1908 by Christian Webb Welty, the Welty House is the birthplace and childhood home of author Eudora Welty. The property is architecturally significant as a transitional Colonial Revival Bungalow style residence, typical of early-twentieth-century residential construction in Jackson. The rehabilitation of the Welty House by the present owners is a commendable adaptive use for the property.

Christian Webb Welty (later president of the Lamar Life Insurance Company from January, 1931, until his death in September, 1931) and his wife Mary Chestine Andrews Welty purchased the property at 741 N. Congress Street in December, 1907, and constructed a residence here soon after (Hinds Co. Miss., Deed books 53:444, 61:139). A daughter, Eudora Welty, was born here in 1909, and lived in the house until 1923, when the family prepared to move into their new residence at 1119 Pinehurst St., the current residence of Miss Welty.

The architectural significance of the Welty House is derived from the application of neo-classical design elements such as Tuscan columns and a modified-Palladian window to an early-twentieth-century-modern Bungalow-style residence, a type which proliferated in Jackson through the 1920s. The distinctly Bungaloid features of the house include the pyramidal roof, asymmetrical elevations, and heavy column piers of the front porch. Unlike the majority of residences of this period, the Welty House retains practically all of its original exterior fabric, particularly the wood-shingled upper section, and original unenclosed front porch.

The rehabilitation of the property for office use by Morris and McDaniel, Inc., industrial psychologists, follows similar adaptive-use projects which have occurred on North Congress Street during the past two years. The locational significance of the area has increased recently due to its proximity to the revived downtown of the city of Jackson, a center for commerce and government. Once a "part of where everyone lived" (Eudora Welty, author. Interviewed by Jack A. Gold, research consultant, at the Welty House, April 1, 1980), the North Congress Street neighborhood, the Welty House in particular, remains an important resource relevant to the historical and architectural development of the city of Jackson.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Welty House

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

As the early residence of Christian W. Welty, the structure located at 741 N. Congress Street is significant to the commercial history of Jackson in the early twentieth century. Welty served as one of the original officers of Lamar Life Insurance Company, which was until 1928, the only insurance company with headquarters in Mississippi (Jackson, Miss. Daily Clarion Ledger. September 25, 1931). Beginning as cashier for the newly organized business in 1906, Welty climbed to assistant secretary, secretary, vice president, general manager and finally president. The nominated property represents the fifteen years from 1908 to 1923 when Welty was playing an active role in building Lamar Life into a nationally known firm then operating in six states. While residing here, Welty was vitally concerned with the construction of the permanent headquarters of Lamar Life, a National Register property located in downtown Jackson. It was largely upon his insistence that the design of Jackson's first "skyscraper" was Gothic in spirit and detail in order that it might complement neighboring St. Andrews Cathedral. Upon its completion early in 1925, Lamar Life was proudly, albeit naively, cited as "... one of the best examples of pure Gothic style of architecture extant in the United States today" (Jackson, Miss. Daily Clarion Ledger. February 17, 1925). The design and planning for this distinguished building, always a Jackson landmark, is one of Welty's most enduring contributions made before moving from the nominated residence in 1923. In an editorial mourning his death in 1931, the Clarion Ledger noted that "Mr. Welty came to Jackson as a man who started from scratch and stepped out front of his competitors in a highly spirited fashion ... (He) leaves behind a record of sterling deed and studious effort worth countless fortunes to the youth of the city who will take his example to heart." (Jackson, Miss. Daily Clarion Ledger. September 25, 1931).

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In the architectural history of Jackson, the Welty House represents an increasingly rare example of a middle class residence designed in the Colonial Revival style. While the city retains a reasonably representative sample of its spacious, porticoed-mansion stock of the period, less pretentious Colonial Revival houses have been overlooked, neglected, replaced and largely forgotten in the shadow of their more ambitious contemporaries. Because few examples of a middle class Colonial Revival dwelling survive in Jackson, and fewer still enjoy such a high degree of architectural integrity, the Welty House is worthy of preservation.

Although it is not large, the Welty House features many of the same design considerations characteristic of far more sophisticated buildings of the period. Variety of materials, for instance, was modestly expressed by the use of both clapboard and shingles as a siding material. Vestiges of the Queen Anne movement lingers in the shallow bay window on the facade and in the bracketted oriel on the north elevation. Small Tuscan columns and a

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gold, Jack A., research consultant. Inspection of the Welty House, March 23, 1980.

Hinds Co., Miss., Deed books 53,61,2648.

Welty, Eudora, author. Interviewed by Jack A. Gold, research consultant, at the Welty House,

(Continued on next page) y.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Jackson

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	6	5	4	2	0	3	5	7	7	8	4	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

That part of the South Half of the North three quarters of Ten Acre Lot Number 10 North in the City of Jackson, Miss. as designated by map of said City of H.C. Daniel of 1875, and as more particularly described in Deed Book 2648:233.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack A. Gold Research Consultant

organization date May, 1980

street & number 811 Fairview St. telephone 353-2513

city or town Jackson state Mississippi

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Chas B. Milliam

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 26, 1980

For HCRS 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

April 1, 1980.

Capers, Charlotte. An Interview with Eudora Welty. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Oral History Program.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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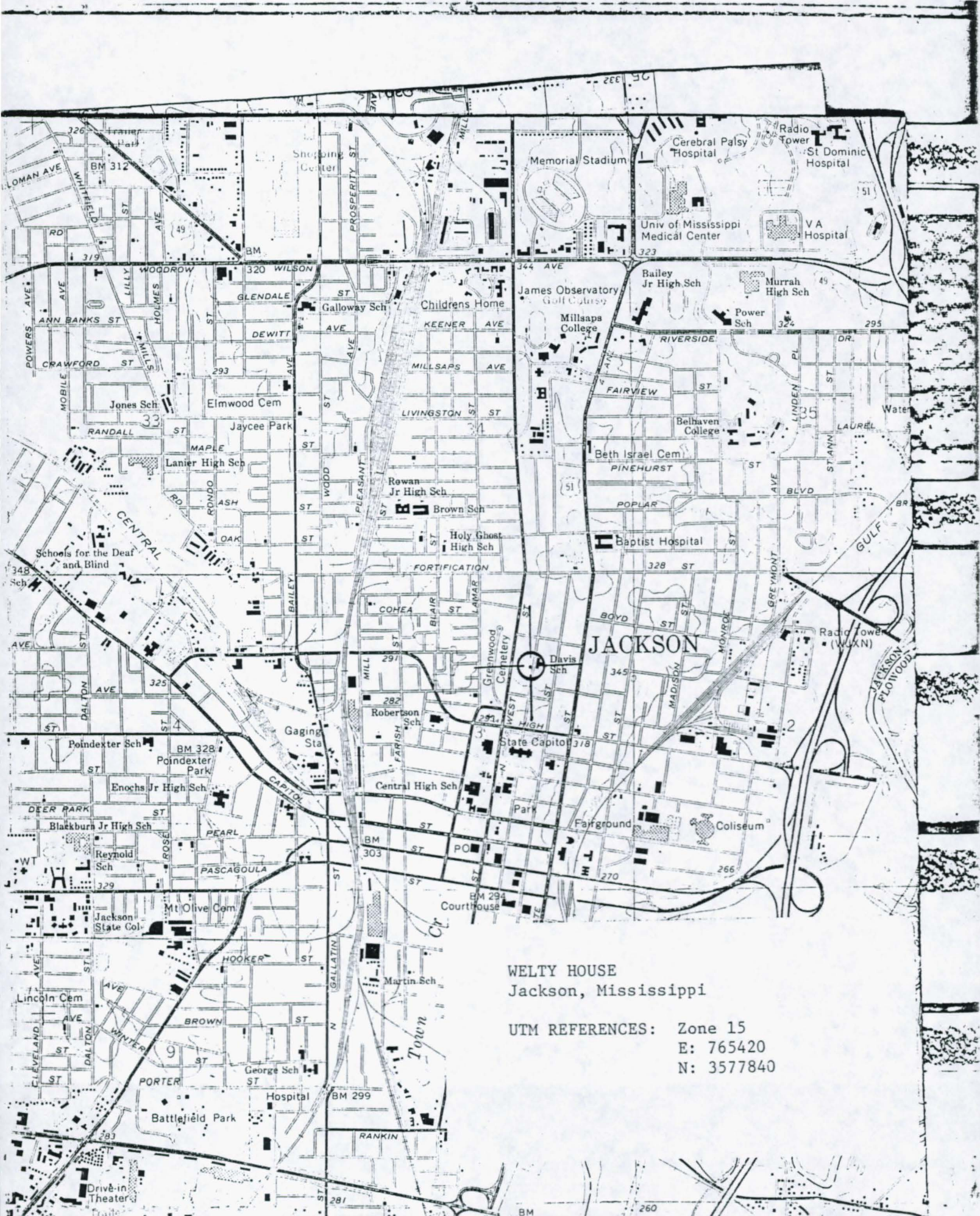
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Welty House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

freely interpreted Palladian window heralded the infant Colonial Revival movement which would mature in Jackson during the following decade. Studied observation of the Welty House tells a great deal about the architectural tastes of the early twentieth century particularly as it took form in a modest middle class residence.

William C. Allen
Chief Architectural Historian
Mississippi Department of Archives & History



WELTY HOUSE
Jackson, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES: Zone 15
E: 765420
N: 3577840



MORRIS
& McDaniel
THE N. CONGRESS
FORGE EXCESS FOR
PERSONALITY
RESERVATION WITH IN
PRESERVE IN THE
HOTEL NAME

Front (east) elevation; view to southwest.

Welty House

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold, Research Consultant

May, 1980

Photo No. 1 of 3



Front (east) and north elevation; view to
southwest.

(Welty House)

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold, Research Consultant

May, 1980

Photo No. 2 of 3

OCT 27 1980

JUN 5 1980



Parlor mantelpiece, view to west.

Welty House

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold, Research Consultant

May, 1980

Photo No. 3 of 3