

**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 HCRS use only

received **OCT 27 1983**

date entered

1. Name

historic Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution Plant

and/or common Old Armour Building

2. Location

street & number 320 West Pearl Street N/A not for publication

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Mississippi code 28 county Hinds code 49

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Earthwalk Restorations, Ltd.

street & number 320 West Pearl Street

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 316 South President Street

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution Plant, located at 320 West Pearl Street in Jackson, Mississippi, was built in 1906 and put into operation in 1907 as a smoked- and fresh-meat processing plant. It remained in continuous operation until 1970, at which time Armour vacated the building.

It is a triangular building with approximately 18,000 square feet of space distributed among three floors. It measures 100 feet on the front facing south, 112 feet on the west side, and 152 feet on the east side which is on the original Alabama and Vicksburg Railroad right-of-way. The building is constructed of red brick and red mortar, and is two stories with a basement. The front is built in five, 20-foot bays with 4-foot pilasters extending the full height of the building. It is topped by an oversized cornice with denticulated and corbeled bands, all of brick. There is a three-foot, concrete-faced water table spanning the front of the building. The basic construction is of heavy timber and brick.

The underpinning consists of a below-ground, perimeter wall with hand-cut, native limestone pier supports for the 14" x 14" main timbers. There are three smokestacks, two of which rise from the smokehouses, three-story spaces with open circulation (no flooring, only grills) located in the center of the east side of the building.

The floor plan includes the following:

Basement - 4,000 square feet - 10 rooms. Consists of workrooms, boilerroom, machinery room, and fire pits; open-beam and brick construction; brick floors with the original drains (operable).

First Floor - 6,700 square feet - 10 rooms. Consists of workrooms, coolers and smokehouses; constructed of open beams and brick; wood or brick floors; features massive walls (34 inches thick) and one meat cooler (22 feet x 60 feet) lined with white ceramic brick.

Second Floor - 7,300 square feet - 10 rooms. Consists of workrooms, coolers and smokehouses. Constructed with open beams and brick; wooden floors.

The only major alteration is a first-floor, recessed loading dock at the southwest corner, a feature which breaks the continuity of the bay and pilaster construction on a small portion of the face of the building. There was a fire in 1979 which destroyed the original elevator shaft and the central portion of the roof; the elevator was replaced by a 40-foot brick foundation wall, and the roof was converted to a tin shed roof with a 60-foot by 10-foot, south-facing solar window, a treatment which is not visible from the street. An addition to the building, constructed in the 1930s, extends northward from the rear elevation.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution Plant

Continuation sheet Hinds County, Mississippi

Item number 7 and 8

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received

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7 - DESCRIPTION

Interesting features that the building contains are:

- 1) The original meat rails and hangers.
- 2) The original iron fire doors.
- 3) The original overhead-track meat scales.
- 4) Corbeled brickwork supporting roof braces on the east side of the loading dock.
- 5) Massive wood support timbers and brick cooler walls.
- 6) Pearl Street facade—intricate brick cornice and dentil work.
- 7) Brick floors.
- 8) Metal inverted trusses.
- 9) Ceramic-brick-walled cooler.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

During the latter twentieth century, as trucks eclipsed railroads as the most cost-effective means of commercial transportation, many inner-city industrial plants, like Jackson's Armour Packing Plant, were closed, and their buildings were abandoned. Those structures which did not fall with HUD's urban design of the 1960s and 1970s, stand today as solid survivors and examples of the former importance of downtown's industrial and commercial economy. Unlike other historic Jackson meat-processing operations, the Armour building survived downtown redevelopment efforts.

Jackson's Armour Packing Plant closed in 1970. Four years later the property passed into private hands. In 1977, John D. McWilliams purchased the property and has since converted part of the structure into highly coveted downtown residential units. Further plans for rehabilitation, and hence the revitalization of Jackson's depleted West Capitol Street area, include more residential units, and the possibility of dining and commercial facilities.

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 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 checked="" 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 1906-07 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution Plant is significant for its identification with the vital, early-twentieth-century industrial and commercial growth of Mississippi's capital city. In addition, the plant possesses primary significance as Jackson's only extant packing plant, and for its present and potential role in revitalizing the downtown West Capitol Street area.

Entrepreneur Philip Danforth Armour (1832-1901) founded the Armour and Company in 1867 in Chicago. Armour later merged his company with other packing firms owned by his family, and by 1890 the Armour Packing Company was one of America's five largest meat-packing companies. Like many major monopolies during America's turn-of-the-century years, the Armour Packing Company expanded its operations throughout the nation. The Armour Packing Plant in Jackson, therefore, represents another link in the powerful chain of food-processing plants constructed by Armour (Harper Leech and John Charles Carroll, Armour and His Times [Freeport, NY: Books for Libraries Press, 1971], pp. 34, 102).

As with most industries during the fast-paced Civil War years, the railroad provided the key to expansion and success, and the development of the South's viable post-war railroad system made states like Mississippi and geographic centers like Jackson logical marketing targets. The refinement of the refrigerator car in the 1880s further enabled northern industries to market their products in the South. By 1887 the Armour Company had constructed and maintained its own lines to carry perishable products from the great Mid western packing houses to other parts of the country. Also in 1887, Armour experimented with two "peddle car" routes to remote areas to supply and market perishable meat and dairy products. The success of these innovative merchandising mechanisms convinced Armour to put these "moving branch houses" nationwide on rail sidings as distribution points. Jackson's first "Armour branch house" was a bright yellow refrigerated car located on a rail siding near the corner of East South and Commerce Streets. (Leech, pp. 125-27).

By 1906, the Armour Company purchased a lot in Jackson located near the Meridian and Vicksburg railroad line, the city's prominent West Capitol Street commercial center. By 1908, Jackson's Armour Packing branch conducted business from a substantial brick building at 314-320 West Pearl Street. Although Meridian, at that time Mississippi's largest and busiest rail center, claims Armour's first Mississippi branch (extant), the Jackson building was decidedly larger, indicative of its storehouse capabilities (Hinds County Deed Books 49:106, 49:502-3, 58:405, 376:27-29; Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1904, sheet no. 20 and 1909, sheet no. 22).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hinds County. Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 49, 58, 376.

Leech, Harper and John Charles Carroll. Armour and His Times. (Freeport, New York: Books for Libraries Press), 1971.

Sanborn Insurance Company. Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1904, 1909.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Jackson, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the southeast corner of lot 13, Daniel's Official Map, City of Jackson, 1875, run west with the southern boundary line of lot 13, 136 feet, then north 130 feet, then in a southeasterly direction 188.09 feet to the point of beginning.

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 John D. McWilliams

organization Earthwalk Restorations, Ltd.

date April 7, 1983

street & number 320 West Pearl Street

telephone (601) 355-8419

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



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

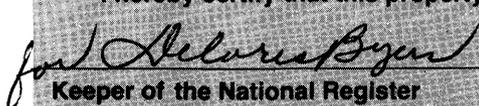
date October 18, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 11/25/83

for  Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution
Plant, 320 West Pearl Street, view to
northwest (front elevation)

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

David Mayor

April 1983

Photo 1 of 5



Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution
Plant, 320 West Pearl Street, detail of
corbeled cornice

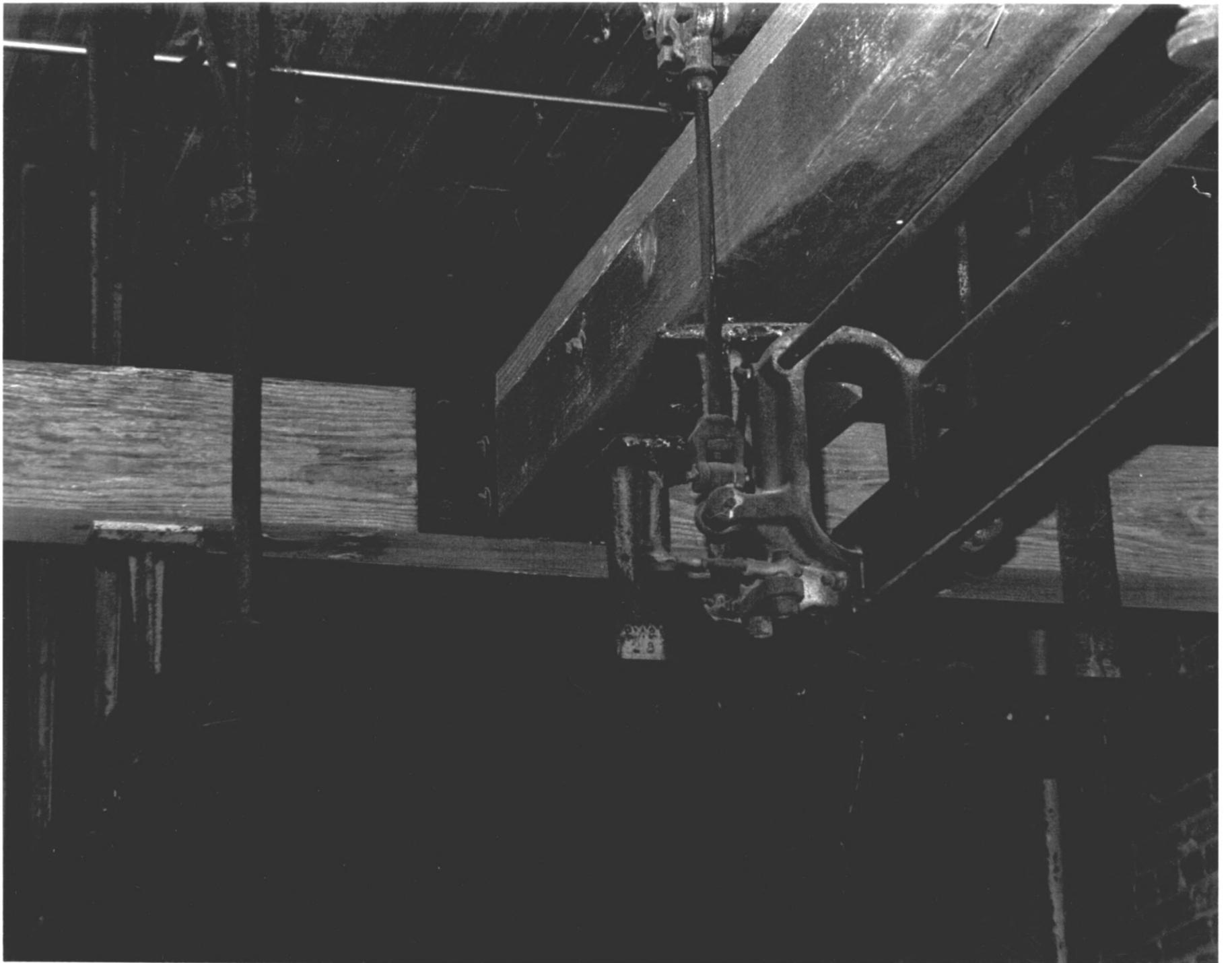
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

David Mayor

April 1983

Photo 2 of 5



Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution
Plant, 320 West Pearl Street, detail of
meat track and structural members

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

David Mayor

April 1983

Photo 3 of 5



Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution
Plant, 320 West Pearl Street, detail of
ceramic-brick wall

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

David Mayor

April 1983

Photo 4 of 5



Armour Company Smokehouse and Distribution
Plant, 320 West Pearl Street, view to west
(side elevation)

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

David Mayor

April 1983

Photo 5 of 5