

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received MAR 13 1987

date entered APR 20 1987

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

1. Name

historic Newell Rogers House

and/or common R. C. Gaddis House

2. Location

street & number 706 North Sixth Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Laurel

☒ vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Jones

code 67

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. E. Thomas Saucier

street & number 706 North Sixth Avenue

city, town Laurel

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi 39440

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jones County Courthouse

street & number Fifth Avenue

city, town Laurel

state Mississippi 39440

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Newell Rogers House is an early twentieth-century eclectic residence with Neo-classical detailing and Mediterranean overtones. The house is situated upon a terraced site on the northwest corner of the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Seventh Street in the downtown residential area of Laurel. Its property is defined along the street elevations by an original combination of retaining wall and fence made of concrete and ornamental ironwork. Wide concrete steps with two intermediate landings lead from Sixth Street to a tiled terrace. Original planters flank the steps and border the terrace.

The two-story house, which is constructed of six-inch poured-concrete walls with a tinted cement coating, has a full basement and finished attic and is surmounted by a gabled tile roof flanked by outside-end chimneys. The roof has wide overhanging eaves which are adorned with brackets or shaped rafter ends. A two-story porch with lower, gabled tile roof extends from the southerly side elevation and is supported on the first story by Tuscan columns and on the second-story by columns composed of wrought-iron panels that match the wrought-iron supports of the entrance porch. The upper-story was originally enclosed and features casement windows set over window boxes. The lower story was apparently enclosed not long after the house was built, since early photographs show it as an open porch but hardware and detailing of the enclosure stylistically date to within a decade or so of the house's construction. A one-story latticed porch with railed roof shelters the rear doorway of the house.

The Newell Rogers House is a three-bay composition with easterly facade and is divided horizontally by stucco belt courses. The center-bay entrance is sheltered by a small entry porch supported by brackets and columns composed of wrought-iron panels. The entry porch is flanked by detached sidelights with concrete window boxes, and the porch roof is iron-railed to form a balcony accessed from the upper hallway through double-leaf glazed doors set beneath a semi-circular light. The entrance doorway features a keystone surround of molded concrete and a single-leaf door with two molded panels. Full-size windows of the house are filled with either eight-over-eight or six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by original shutter blinds. The upper half story is lighted by quarter-round windows that flank the chimneys.

The interior plan of the house is irregular with an entry hall providing access to a parlor, dining room, bathroom, and kitchen, with the kitchen and dining room separated by a large pantry with original built-in cabinets. Coved ceilings and molded millwork are features of both principal floors, and the parlor and dining room are further ornamented by applied plaster ceiling decoration. The living room has a classical mantel piece with swags, bell flowers, paterae, urns, and griffins, and the dining room is elaborated with a paneled wainscoting. The open staircase of the entry hall, which features turned balusters and square

(see continuation sheet)

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 1909

Builder/Architect DeBuys, Churchill & Labouisse (New Orleans)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Newell Rogers House is one of Laurel's most significant early twentieth-century residences. This significance is based on its unusual poured-concrete and wood construction, its well documented construction by a noted New Orleans architectural firm, its high degree of architectural finish, its outstanding integrity, and its association with the locally prominent Gardiner family. The eclectic residence exhibits Neo-classical detailing with Mediterranean overtones apparent in the tiled terrace, tiled roof, bracketed roof overhang, wrought-iron trim, and side porch with Tuscan columns. Detailed drawings of the house by the New Orleans architectural firm of DeBuys, Churchill & Labouisse, dated January 18, 1909, and a water color rendering are owned by the present residents. The completed house was pictured in the Times Democrat, November 8, 1910. The walls of the house, from basement to attic story, are constructed of poured concrete, a form of construction that greatly increases the architectural significance of the house. According to authors Virginia and Lee McAlester in A Field Guide to American Houses, "[Monolithic walls of poured concrete] are common in 20th-century commercial buildings but are only rarely found in houses." The significance of the house is also enhanced by its fine interior finishes which include molded millwork and coved plaster ceilings with applied plaster ornament. Its architectural integrity is outstanding and includes such significant survivals as the original tinted stucco finish, hardware, lighting devices, bathroom fixtures, servants' quarters, carriage house, window boxes, and planters on the entrance steps and terrace. The house derives local historical significance from its association with the Gardiner family. According to one local historian, "It is no exaggeration to say that Eastman-Gardiner & Company not only made the city of Laurel but set its tone and whole subsequent pattern of development (Walter Watkins, "The Laurel Story: The First Chapters," 100 Years: The Laurel Story [Laurel: Greater Laurel Centennial Celebration Committee, 1982], p. 16)." According to local tradition, the house was commissioned by George S. Gardiner for his daughter Juliet and her husband Newell Rogers. The Reeder House, another poured-concrete residence by the same architectural firm, was also built for one of Gardiner's daughters. Brothers George and Silas Gardiner and brother-in-law Lauren Eastman, all of Clinton, Iowa, purchased a Laurel saw mill in 1891 and started a pattern of northern immigration and investment that resulted in Laurel shipping more yellow pine lumber than any city in the world in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Their business acumen was coupled with a great sense of civic responsibility and philanthropy, and Laurel churches, schools, and parks were beneficiaries of their wealth from the lumber industry. The Newell Rogers House is one of several significant Laurel buildings associated with members of the family. For several decades, the house was the home of the family of R. C. Gaddis, a locally prominent merchant. The house is today owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Saucier who undertook its first restoration. The Sauciers' respect for the house's significance and integrity is evidenced in the quality of the restoration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Watkins, William. "The Laurel Story: The First Chapters." 100 Years: The Laurel Story. Laurel: Greater Laurel Centennial Celebration Committee, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Laurel West, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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3	5	0	1	8	6	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 23 and 24 of the Highland Addition of the City of Laurel bounded on the East by North 6th Avenue, on the South by 7th Street, on the West by an unnamed public ally and on the North by a wall along the property line.

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 Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Miller Preservation Services

date July 29, 1986

street & number 506 High Street

telephone (601) 442-9786

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

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. B. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 10, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlager

date 4/20/87

Keeper of the National Register

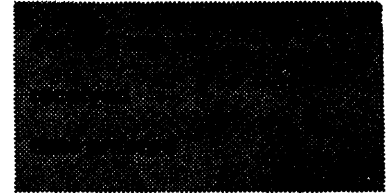
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Newell Rogers House

Continuation sheet Laurel, Jones Co., Miss.

Item number 7

Page 1

paneled newels, is entered north of the entrance doorway by a series of winders, which are screened by an arrangement of elongated balusters set atop a low paneled wall. The stair continues in a straight northerly flight along the easterly hall wall to a landing where it makes a half turn to continue to the second-story hallway. The stair continues to the attic by making another half turn and proceeding to an intermediate landing, where it makes a quarter turn and continues in an enclosed flight to a small attic hallway. Originally, a portion of the attic was finished for a school room, but the completion of the entire attic space for a children's playroom is recent. The basement story is accessed by an interior stairway in the kitchen area and was originally used as a service area with wash rooms and furnace equipment.

At the rear of the property are two stuccoed dependencies with gabled tile roofs that originally functioned as a servant's house and a carriage house. The two buildings are only a few feet apart, are the same depth and height, and have easterly facades. The servant's house, which is now used as a guest house, echoes the main house in form and detail with its overhanging eaves with shaped rafter ends or brackets, three-bay facade, keystone door surround, wrought-iron porch supports, and eight-over-eight windows. The carriage entrances of the carriage house, which also has a gabled tile roof, are accessed from a rear alley that bounds the property on the west.

The integrity of the Newell Rogers House is outstanding and includes the survival of the original peach-tinted stucco finish, lighting devices, most of the bathroom fixtures, hardware, planters, and window boxes. Alterations are limited to the modernization of the kitchen and the bathrooms.



NEWELL ROGERS HOUSE

Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking westerly, the easterly facade.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1986

Photo 1 of 4



NEWELL ROGERS HOUSE

Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking southwesterly, the easterly facade
of the servants' house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1986.

Photo 2 of 4



NEWELL ROGERS HOUSE

Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking southeasterly, the rear or westerly elevations of the carriage house (left) and servants' house (right).

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1986.

Photo 3 of 4



NEWELL ROGERS HOUSE

Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking southwesterly, the parlor with its classical mantelpiece, doorway to the side porch, and decorative plaster ceiling.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1986.

Photo 4 of 4