NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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Exp. 10-31-84

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

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 18 1984
date entered JUL 19 1984

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

## 1. Name

historic W. M. Whittington House

and/or common Anna Ward House, State Headquarters of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

## 2. Location

street & number 401 East Market Street N/A not for publication

city, town Greenwood N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Leflore code 83

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | X occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| X building(s) | X private | ___ unoccupied | ___ commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | ___ private residence |
| ___ site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | ___ entertainment | ___ religious |
| ___ object | N/A in process | X yes: restricted | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | | ___ no | ___ military | X other: Garden Club Headquarter |

## 4. Owner of Property

name The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.
State Headquarters of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

street & number Route 3, Box 216, West Claiborne Extension

city, town Greenwood N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Leflore County Courthouse

street & number Market Street

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 ___ federal X 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| X excellent | ___ deteriorated | X unaltered | X original site |
| ___ good | ___ ruins | ___ altered | ___ moved date N/A |
| ___ fair | ___ unexposed | | |

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The W. M. Whittington House, located within the Williams Landing Historic District in Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi, is a symmetrically composed, hipped roof, brick mansion exhibiting an affinity to both the Neo-Georgian and Prairie styles of architecture. The two-story, central block is flanked by one-story, slightly recessed and largely glazed pavilions that have flat roofs surrounded by molded and paneled balustrades. Both the main roof, which is sheathed in green tile, and the pavilion roofs exhibit wide eaves and a deep frieze which are ornamented at the corners with triglyph and guttae elements. The main roof soffit also has large modillion blocks which are carved in a flat scroll pattern. Prominent hipped dormers are positioned on the south, west, and north roof planes, each containing two or three multi-light windows and bracketed eaves. Tall exterior chimneys on the east and north elevations are distinguished by corbeled caps with diamond and banding motifs in cast stone.

The principal (south) facade features a central projecting flat-roofed porch with square brick piers at the corners and wooden Tuscan columns in antis. The piers have molded stone caps, and the porch is surmounted by an entablature and balustrade matching the flanking pavilions. The entry consists of a multi-paned french door with sidelights and transom, all having square beveled lights. Triple-unit mullioned windows flank the central bay on both floors of the main block and a similar unit with a central door gives access to the balcony above the entry porch. Windows on the first floor have flat brick arches with stone skewback and keystone elements. All windows are in a sixteen-, twelve-, or nine-over-one glazing configuration excepting the pavilions, which are composed entirely of multi-paned, mullioned units, including transoms. Bracketed window boxes are located below the second-floor windows on the major facade. A tiled-floored terrace enclosed by a low brick wall fronts the house across its width, and a porte-cochere added in the 1920s extends beyond the eastern pavilion.

The interior's formal arrangement of rooms includes a central entrance hall containing a switchback staircase with a delicate balustrade of closely spaced square members. Pocket doors separate the major downstairs rooms. Woodwork in the house, including exposed beam ceilings, bracketed mantelpieces, and door and window surrounds, was finished to resemble a variety of woods including mahogany, oak, and Circassian walnut.

Originally the rear yeard included a servants' cottage and large barn, but these were torn down as the neighborhood became more settled and replaced by a combination garage/quarters constructed of the same brick and tile as the main house. The grounds, with its closely clipped hedges, brick walks, and mature trees, contribute to the formal setting of the house.

# 8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ prehistoric | ___ archeology-prehistoric | ___ community planning | ___ landscape architecture | ___ religion |
| ___ 1400–1499 | ___ archeology-historic | X conservation | ___ law | ___ science |
| ___ 1500–1599 | ___ agriculture | ___ economics | ___ literature | ___ sculpture |
| ___ 1600–1699 | X architecture | ___ education | ___ military | ___ social/ humanitarian |
| ___ 1700–1799 | ___ art | ___ engineering | ___ music | ___ theater |
| ___ 1800–1899 | ___ commerce | ___ exploration/settlement | ___ philosophy | ___ transportation |
| X 1900– | ___ communications | ___ industry | X politics/government | ___ other (specify) |
| | | ___ invention | | |

**Specific dates** Ca. 1914 **Builder/Architect** Ben Price

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The W. M. Whittington House is significant as an example of residential architecture which combines elements of the Neo-Georgian and Prairie styles in a highly successful manner, and as the home of William Madison Whittington, prominent and influential legislator who served Mississippi in the United States House of Representatives from 1925 until 1951.

Architect for the Whittington House was Ben Price of Birmingham, Alabama, who designed very similar residences on South Boulevard in the same city and on North State Street in Jackson. The house was built on the site of a smaller frame house that Mr. Whittington had constructed on a lot that he purchased on February 6, 1905 (Leflore County, Miss., Deed Book 36, p. 3). This first house burned in 1914, and the new house was completed in 1915, with the Whittingtons living there for the remainder of their lives (Kay Barksdale, "W. M. Whittington Home," Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth, Sept. 26, 1977, p. 3). The residence manifests a skillful hybridization of two styles that reached their zenith in the first decades of the twentieth century. The influence of the Prairie Style can be observed in the broad, overhanging eaves and almost ribbon-like fenestration patterns which contribute to the marked horizontality of the composition. Other features indicative of the style include the bracketed cornices and square brick piers. The Georgian influence is evidenced by the employment of classical detailing, symmetrically massed central block and pavilions, and by the profusion of small-paned windows. The house, which was recently given by the heirs to the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. as their new headquarters, is largely unaltered and in an excellent state of preservation, with many original furnishings.

William Madison Whittington was born in Franklin County, Mississippi, on May 4, 1878. This distinguished statesman received his early education in the local public schools, was graduated from Mississippi College at Clinton in 1898 and from the law department of the University of Mississippi in 1899. Whittington was admitted to the bar in the same year and moved to Greenwood in January, 1904. He was elected state senator representing Leflore and Tallahatchie counties and served from 1916 to 1920, was reelected in 1923 and resigned early in 1924 to accept the Democratic nomination for representative in Congress. Representing the Third District, Whittington served for thirteen consecutive terms (March 4, 1925 - January 3, 1951). He devoted a great deal of his attention while in Congress to the enactment of agricultural, flood control, and highway legislation. As chairman of the Flood Control Committee Whittington, in 1938, successfully steered to adoption the most comprehensive flood control measure in the history of the nation. The Whittington Act, as it came to be known, authorized the colossal sum of $386,500,000 to be used in the principal basins of the United States. Locally the bill brought about the taming of the Yazoo River system

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Barksdale, Kay. "W. M. Whittington Home." Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth, Sept. 26, 197

Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress 1774-1961. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961.

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** approx. 1 acre

**Quadrangle name** Greenwood, Miss. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

**UTM References**

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 15 | 762130 | 3712495 | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** A tract or parcel of land in Block Two (2) of the Douglas Part of the City of Greenwood, and in the unplatted lands lying between said Block Two (2) and Pelucia Bayou, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Starting at the intersection of the north right-of-way line of East Market Street (60' wid

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **state** | N/A | **code** | **county** | | **code** |
| **state** | N/A | **code** | **county** | | **code** |

## 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** William R. Hony, Executive Director
~~Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Whittington, Jr., Mrs. George Pillow~~

**organization** Cottonlandia Museum **date** March 30, 1984

**street & number** P. O. Box 1635 **telephone** (601) 453-0925

**city or town** Greenwood **state** Mississippi

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

**The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:**

___ national X 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** June 8, 1984

**For NPS use only**

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

for Alberta Byers **Entered in the National Register** **date** 7/19/84

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Attest:** **date**

**Chief of Registration**

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

which gave increased protection to the Mississippi Delta. Whittington voluntarily resigned from Congress in 1951 and resumed the practice of law in Greenwood until his death in 1962 (Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress 1774-1961 [Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961], p. 1810; and W. N. Taylor and G. H. Etheridge, Mississippi: A History [Jackson: The Historical Record, 1940], Vol. IV, pp. 1693-4).

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

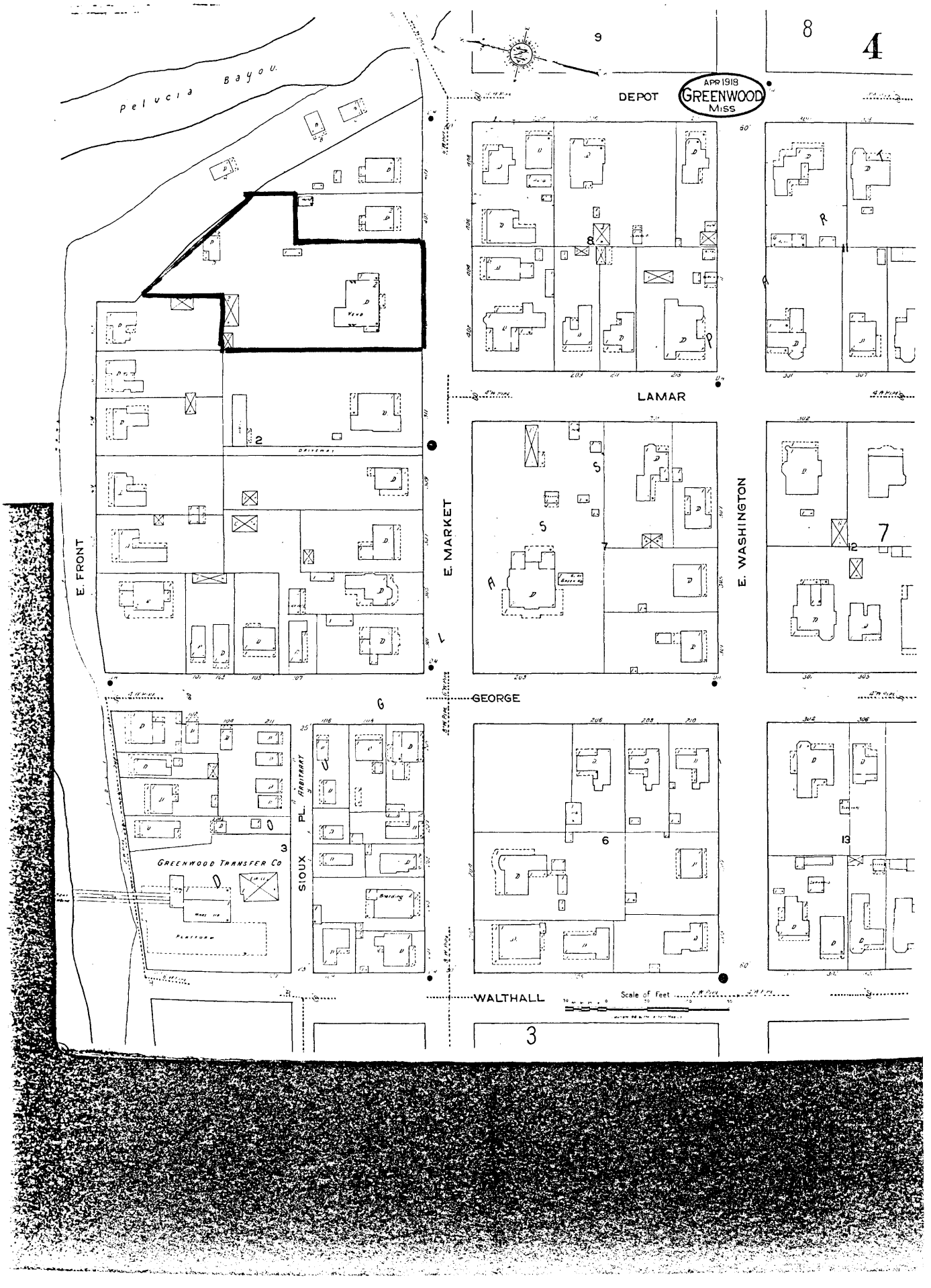
Leflore County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 36.

Taylor, W. N. and G. H. Etheridge. Mississippi: A History. Vol. IV. Jackson: The Historical Record Association, 1940.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

with the east right-of-way line of a 10' wide private alley (being the first alley east of George Street), proceed thence North 76° East with said north line 91.25 feet to the point of beginning, said beginning point being the northwest corner of a concrete cap (24" x 27") on a brick fence column; thence North 14° West 249.3 feet to a point; thence North 76° East 175.4 feet to a point on an existing fence line, said fence line also being the southwest right-of-way line of an existing public alley (20' wide); Thence South 51° 45' East 100.33 feet with said fence to a point; thence South 76° West 54.86 feet to a point; thence South 14° East 170 feet to a point on the north line of East Market Street (60' wide) said point being the northeast corner of a concrete cap (24" x 27") on a brick fence column; thence South 76° West with the north right-of-way line of East Market Street 181.96 feet to the point of beginning; containing 47,277.27 sq. ft. or 1.085 acres, more or less.

W. M. Whittington House
Leflore County, Mississippi



W. M. Whittington House
401 East Market Street
Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi
William R. Hony
March, 1984
View to northwest
Photo 1 of 4

W. M. Whittington House
401 East Market Street
Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi
William R. Hony
March, 1984
View to west
Photo 2 of 4

W. M. Whittington House
401 East Market Street
Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi
William R. Hony
March, 1984
Interior view, dining room and sun porch
Photo 3 of 4

W. M. Whittington House
401 East Market Street
Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi
William R. Hony
March, 1984
View to central stair hall
Photo 4 of 4