

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name (Old) Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory

other names/site number Williams, Tennessee, Childhood Home; Mississippi Welcome Center

2. Location

street & number 300 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Columbus N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Lowndes code 87 zip code 39701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1876-1880

Significant Dates

circa 1876-1880

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(Old) Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory
Columbus, Lowndes County, MississippiSection number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

Facing north onto Main Street in downtown Columbus, the Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory, now a Mississippi Welcome Center, is a two-and-one-half story, single-pile, frame house displaying Gothic and Stick style characteristics. Constructed circa 1876-1880, the house rests on a brick foundation and is crowned by a side-gabled roof with prominent paired cross gables on both the front and rear elevations. A pair of stuccoed chimneys, linked by decorative iron cresting, crown the roof, and a small, central, gabled dormer with one-over-one, double-hung window pierces the roof of the main facade. Scalloped vergeboard trims the gables, and the eaves are enhanced by brackets. The walls are finished in weatherboard interrupted by various patterns of board ornament, including a diagonal board belt course under the first floor windows, raised stickwork under all windows, picket-patterned trim with battens in the gables, board-and-batten siding on the second floor wall between the projecting gables of the main facade, and horizontal flush board framing the main entrance.

The lower level of the main facade has a central single-leaf, panelled and glazed entrance topped by a single-light transom and flanked by eight-over-eight, double-hung windows. On the upper level are two eight-over-eight, double-hung windows that extend into the cross gables. A one-story, three-bay porch highlights the facade and features a wooden deck, slender chamfered colonnettes with foliated brackets, and a flat roof intersected by a central one-bay projecting gable clad in board-and-batten siding and trimmed with vergeboard.

The side elevations contain one eight-over-eight, double-hung window on both floors, and beneath each window is raised stickwork. Two one-story, gabled ells extend from the rear elevation and feature two-over-two, double-hung sash. The western ell has a full-length porch spanning the eastern elevation; this porch, which has been partially enclosed by glass, has a wooden deck, plain posts, and foliated brackets.

The former rectory has a center hall, single-pile plan and retains its original wood floors, high baseboards, four-panel doors with glass knobs, crown molding, and mantelpieces. The windows are trimmed with molded surrounds, and under the first floor windows are panelled aprons. Each of the two mantels on the first floor is cast iron with a round-arched opening, decorative cartouche, and curved

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

wooden mantel shelf, while those on the second floor are wooden with panelled pilasters supporting a plain frieze and simple mantel shelf. A two-flight, open-string staircase with an octagonal newel post and tapered, turned balusters graces the center hall. Two one-story ells extend from the rear elevation. The western ell now houses a break room and restrooms, while the eastern ell contains a single room used for display space.

Constructed circa 1876-1880, the rectory was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 8, 1982, as a contributing element in the South Columbus Historic District. At that time, the house (Inventory No. 291) was located at 318 Second Avenue South, next door to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, on a small flat lot shaded by several older trees and trimmed by foundation plantings.

Because the congregation no longer wished to maintain the rectory and wanted to use the lot for future expansion of the church, the house was sold to the Mississippi Department of Transportation with the condition that it be moved. On February 3, 1995, the house was moved one block (0.1 mile) north, at which time it was automatically delisted from the National Register. The house did not have to be disassembled for the move, and therefore the integrity of the historic fabric was not compromised. Although the integrity of location and association was sacrificed by the move, the building retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The house was sympathetically rehabilitated for use as a tourist information center in 1995 and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The rectory has been designated a "Mississippi Landmark" under the Antiquities Law of Mississippi and was rehabilitated under the supervision and review of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History utilizing The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Only a few alterations were made to the building, and these were limited to subdividing the western ell into space for a break room and restrooms.

The former rectory is now located on two lots at the intersection of Main and Third Streets in the historic downtown commercial area of Columbus. Situated close to the street, as it was historically, the rectory is surrounded by a small grassy lawn planted with saplings and boxwood. Parking space is provided to the north, east and south of the house. Although the house is now located

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

within the boundaries of the Columbus Central Commercial Historic District, it is being individually nominated to the National Register rather than being added as an element in the commercial district because it is a residential building and would not contribute to the architectural character of the commercial area. However, it is located on the edge of the commercial historic district where the commercial scale begins to blend into the adjoining residential South Columbus Historic District.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed circa 1876-1880, the Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory is of statewide significance in the area of architecture, being one of Mississippi's most notable examples of late Victorian Picturesque-movement architecture, displaying characteristics of both the Gothic and Stick styles. After the Civil War, Picturesque-movement houses tended to be more eclectic and less purely Gothic than antebellum examples; consequently, the eclecticism of this house is very different from the antebellum "Greco-Gothic" seen in other Columbus houses. Although moved from its original location, the Rectory retains a high degree of architectural integrity and has such notable features as the side gabled roof with paired cross gables, various patterns of wooden wall cladding, vergeboard and brackets, and a porch with chamfered colonnettes and foliated brackets. The architectural significance of the Old Rectory is further underscored by the fact that it is pictured as an example of Gothic Revival residential architecture in Virginia and Lee McAlester's A Field Guide to American Architecture (1984).

The Old Rectory was the first home of Thomas Lanier "Tennessee" Williams, one of America's leading playwrights. Williams was born in Columbus on March 26, 1911, and spent the first three years of his life in the rectory while his maternal grandfather, Walter E. Dakin, was rector of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Williams received the Pulitzer Prize for *Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and four of his works were awarded the Drama Critics' Circle Award. (The house is not being nominated for association with Williams because it has been moved from its original location and because Williams did not spend the productive period of his life there.)

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(Old) Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crocker, Mary Wallace. Historic Architecture in Mississippi.
Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1973.

Crook, Brenda R., architectural historian with the Mississippi
Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Inspection of the
(Old) St. Paul's Episcopal Rectory, March 8, 1996.

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

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Historic
Preservation Division. Historic Resources Inventory. Lowndes
County.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Historic
Preservation Division. National Register Files for Lowndes
County.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Historic
Preservation Division. Mississippi Landmarks File.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots One (1) and Two (2) of Square No.
Two (2) South of Main Street in the City of Columbus, Lowndes County,
Mississippi. The property is located in the SW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section
16, Township 18 South, Range 18 West.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the city lots on which
the Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory now stands.



HISTORIC TOUR
BEGINS HERE

(old) Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
Columbus, Lowndes Co., MS

Carlos Rosales

April 1996

MS Dept. of Archives & History

Main (north) and west elevations, view to SE

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(old) Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory
Columbus, Lowndes County, MS

Carlos Rasales

April 1996

MS Dept. of Archives & History

Rear (south) & east elevations, view to NLO

Photo 2 of 3



(Old) Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
Columbus, Lowndes Co., MS
Carlos Rosales

April 1996

MS Dept. of Archives & History
Center hall, view to S

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