orm No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) PH0366862

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 17 1977
DATE ENTERED APR 29 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hickory Sticks (Weir-Hodges House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1206 North Seventh Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Columbus — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE
Mississippi

CODE
28

COUNTY
Lowndes

CODE
087

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	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Ivy

STREET & NUMBER
1206 North Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN
Columbus — VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi 39701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Second Avenue North

CITY, TOWN
Columbus

STATE
Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hickory Sticks is a one-and-a-half-story log and frame house which faces west from a wooded three-and-a-half-acre site two hundred feet above the old Hamilton (Columbus-Aberdeen) Road in Columbus, Mississippi. Supported by a foundation of brick piers, the raised-cottage-type house has a gable roof and a full front gallery with six wooden columns spanned by a simple wooden railing.

The Greek Revival appearance of the house is the result of mid-nineteenth century additions to a double-pen log structure which probably dates from the earliest period of settlement in Columbus, ca. 1817-1830. According to Columbus historian Dr. William L. Lipscomb, "up to 1830 more than one-half of all the houses built in Columbus were made of logs," the typical log house being "either single or double, one and a half stories high . . . with piazza running the length of the whole house in front" (Lipscomb, pp. 48-49). When it stood alone, the original log portion of Hickory Sticks faced south and probably fit Lipscomb's description exactly. As the house is presently arranged, the surviving pen of the log structure frames the two rooms, one above the other, at the northwest corner. The hand-hewn, crudely notched logs are of varying woods, apparently selected for their size.

Robert Haden evidently enlarged and remodeled the log house soon after he purchased it in 1846 (Deed book 22:272). A three-room floor plan with stair hall was achieved by the addition of a large, high-ceilinged parlor to correspond with the log-framed rooms across a center hall probably created from the space formerly occupied by the "piazza" of the log house. The ceiling of the west pen of the log structure was raised with timber framing to allow for a finished second-story room, the front gallery was added under a new roof, six-over-six sash windows were installed above paneled jib windows opening onto the gallery from the new parlor, interior walls were plastered, and the exterior was sheathed with clapboards. Three simple wooden Greek Revival mantels which survive in place, other six-over-six and six-over-nine sash windows, the window and door architraves, the four-panel interior doors, and a simple but graceful wooden stair rail also appear to have been installed in the 1840s. The terracing of the steeply sloping grounds, with brick steps which still lead from the street level up to the front door, was probably accomplished by Haden at the same time.

In 1949, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ivy, the present owners of Hickory Sticks, installed a central heating and air conditioning system and added a rear wing containing a kitchen, a dining room, a sitting room, bathrooms, and another second-floor bedroom. The back (east) pen of the original log structure, by that time severely deteriorated, was removed to allow more space for the addition, while the remaining old portion of the house was carefully renovated. Architect Tom Jones of Starkville, Mississippi, supervised the work; and Mr. Ralph Hudson, an

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1817-1830/1846 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Columbus, Mississippi's settlement, growth, and development are reflected in the house and grounds of Hickory Sticks. Certain features of the grounds suggest that there may have been some prehistoric settlement there (see Physical Description); the nineteenth century house represents, in its two phases of construction, two important periods of Columbus history; and the builders of the house, as well as subsequent owners, occupied prominent positions in the growing Tombigbee River community. As the subject of twentieth century preservation and renovation, open to the public annually during the Columbus Pilgrimage, Hickory Sticks is also an important living component of contemporary Columbus.

The original log portion of Hickory Sticks was probably already standing when Dr. Andrew Weir, who had come to Columbus with his brother Adolphus, officially obtained 160 acres of land, including the house site, by patents from the United States government in 1834 and 1835 (Deed book 219:480-81). Writing in the late nineteenth century, Dr. William L. Lipscomb recalled that, prior to 1830, "log houses occupied most of the fine building sites in Columbus (Lipscomb, p. 49), and it seems safe to assume that similar structures also occupied the most desirable building sites in the immediate vicinity. The elevated ground on which the early log portion of Hickory Sticks was constructed, fronting on the major thoroughfare between Columbus and Aberdeen, was surely such a site. It is possible that Weir himself had settled on the property and constructed the log house before obtaining official title to the land, but in any case he was the first recorded owner of the land surrounding and including Hickory Sticks.

A native of Virginia, Dr. Weir became a prominent citizen of early Columbus and founding president of the Commercial Bank, the second bank to be established in the town (Lipscomb, p. 152). He continued to hold the entire 160-acre tract of land just north of Columbus until 1842, when he initiated a series of transactions which culminated in 1846 with the purchase of a reduced segment, containing approximately thirty-three acres, by Robert D. Haden (Deed book 22:272). Haden was one of the first settlers in Lowndes County, having come there about 1819 from Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He served as a member of the commission that surveyed the town of Columbus in 1821, represented Monroe County in the state legislature in 1826, served as the first clerk of Lowndes County when the county was established in 1830, and figured

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Vol. 1. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891. P. 230.

Lipscomb, William Lowndes. A History of Columbus, Mississippi, During the 19th Century. Columbus, Mississippi: S. D. Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, 1909.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 3-1/2

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	16	367625	3708425	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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
Elizabeth P. Reynolds, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE
December 8, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE
(601) 354-6218

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 X

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 Elbert R. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 13, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting Chief ~~DIRECTOR~~, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION — DATE 4/29/77

ATTEST: Charles A. Jennings — DATE 4-29-77

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

7 - DESCRIPTION

authority on the historic architecture of north Mississippi and at that time chairman of the art department at Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women), served as consultant.

The terraced grounds of Hickory Sticks contain many varieties of trees and a number of rare plants which have survived from the nineteenth century, among them a Chinese tea plant, giant magnolias, and the parent yaupon bush of the region. Dr. John M. Kaye of Mississippi State University has suggested that a large spring on the property may have been the center of an Indian camp site. The spring is surrounded by shells, and projectile points have been found on the grounds.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

prominently in numerous civic organizations and activities (Goodspeed, 1:230; Lipscomb, p. 30). Available evidence strongly suggests that it was Haden who enlarged and remodeled Hickory Sticks, and the work was probably begun as soon as he purchased the property in 1846.

In 1866, when Haden conveyed the Hickory Sticks tract to J. A. Orr, a locally prominent judge (Deed book 34:411), the parcel was described as "33 acres of land embracing the dwelling and other improvements where the said Robert D. now resides." This is the first mention of the house in deed records, and it lends support to the stylistic and material indications that Haden was responsible for the remodeling that resulted in the Greek Revival appearance of Hickory Sticks as it stands today (see Physical Description). The 1840s and 1850s were prosperous decades in Columbus, and many of the finest architectural specimens in the town date from that era. In spite of some daringly applied Gothic Revival and Italianate decoration on several Columbus houses, and an occasional complete commitment to one of those more modern styles, for the most part the Greek Revival remained the dominant mode, particularly for domestic structures, until after the Civil War. At Hickory Sticks Robert Haden was refined and restrained in his use of the Greek Revival style; only the simplest motifs were employed, and no extraneous decoration was applied. For its time, the "new" Hickory Sticks was as simple and representative as the original log structure had been, and it remains today as a well-

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

preserved example of the modest but finely-executed interpretations of the Greek Revival that once were prevalent in Columbus.

The most famous owner of Hickory Sticks was General Stephen Dill Lee (1833-1908), who purchased the thirty-three acres, with "dwelling house and other improvements, vineyard, etc.," in 1879 (Deed book 55:485). A South Carolina native distinguished as a lieutenant-general in the Confederate Army, Lee settled in Columbus when he married Regina Harrison there in 1865. He was elected to the state senate in 1878, chosen a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1890, and served as the first president of Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College from 1880 until 1899, when he resigned to accept an appointment as a member of the commission to organize the Vicksburg National Military Park. At the time of his death in 1908, S. D. Lee was commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans (Malone, 11:130-31).

The Hickory Sticks property was inherited by General Lee's only son, Blewitt Lee, who lived in Chicago and evidently did not plan to return to Columbus (Minute book 11:335). He soon deeded eleven acres of the land to the city of Columbus to be used forever as a public park, now called Lee Park (Deed book 92:430). The Hickory Sticks house site and remaining twenty-two acres of surrounding land were sold separately, however, and the house continued to be occupied as a private residence (Deed book 100:563). During the ensuing decades the private acreage was further subdivided until 1949, when the three-and-a-half-acre parcel containing the Hickory Sticks house was purchased and sensitively renovated by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Ivy (Deed books 210:293; 219:89-90). While renovating the house, Mr. and Mrs. Ivy discovered the log section that had been hidden under plaster for over a hundred years. They were careful to retain all that could be salvaged of the original structure (see Physical Description), and, to allow future interpretation of the development of the house, they left exposed the log and frame construction of a second floor room.

The traditionally wooded and sparsely developed character of the north Columbus area surrounding Hickory Sticks is partially protected by Lee Park to the south; but the other three directions are more vulnerable, and the neighborhood has been gradually encroached upon in recent years with increased large-scale commercial development along nearby Highway 45 to the west, and a housing development to the east, along the edge of Lee Park.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lowndes County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Records. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. 11. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933. Pp. 130-31.

01 4

Photo No. 1 - Hickory Sticks
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Elizabeth P. Reynolds
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
August, 1976
Facade view, looking east from front walk

D o E
APR 29 1977

JAN 17 1977

Photo No. 2 of 4 Hickory Sticks
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Elizabeth P. Reynolds
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
August, 1976
Interior view: parlor showing original
mantel and jib window; looking southwest

DOE

APR 29 1977

JAN 17 1977

Photo No. 3 of 4 - Hickory Sticks
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Elizabeth P. Reynolds
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
Interior view: stair hall showing stair
and parlor door; looking south

DOE

APR 29 1977

JAN 17 1977

Photo No. 4 - Hickory Sticks
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Elizabeth P. Reynolds
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
Interior view: second floor hall with
partial view of northwest chamber,
showing log construction extended with
timber framing; looking northwest

DOE APR 29 1977

JAN 17 1977