

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pearl Spann Elementary School

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1615 Brecon Drive

City or town: Jackson State: MS County: Hinds

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national _____ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A _____ B X C _____ D

<u>Kate Blount</u> Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SHPO</u>	<u>Nov. 21, 2017</u> Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official: _____	Date _____
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☒
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement: International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, metal, glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Pearl Spann Elementary School is located on the corner of Brecon Drive and Ridgewood Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. The Modernist style classroom building was erected in 1958 and was designed by Mississippi firm Overstreet, Ware and Ware which was composed of N. W. Overstreet, Joseph T. Ware, Jr. and John M. Ware. The building is still used as an elementary school and retains its original massing, materials, proportion, and integrity of location.

Narrative Description

Pearl Spann Elementary School, facing north, is located on the corner of Brecon Drive and Ridgewood Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. It is a one-story brick International Style structure that has been used as a school since it was constructed in 1958. It was designed by Overstreet, Ware and Ware, a firm that included N.W. Overstreet, an accomplished Jackson architect who had recently been named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA). The school is located in a residential neighborhood in northeast Jackson. The lot on which the building stands is enhanced with large pine, cedar, and deciduous trees. Five portable classroom buildings have been placed in the rear (east and west sides) of the building to accommodate an increase in students. There is also a playground and basketball court on the property.

The brick building has a cluster type design with a rectangular block that includes the library/auditorium, cafeteria, and offices and, extending diagonally from the center of the block, a long hallway running the length of the E-shaped classroom wing. Off of this hall are

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

classrooms on the left on the right, three short double-loaded halls with four classrooms each. In between the short classroom wings, the long hallway has window walls to the courtyard spaces formed by the short wings. The roof is flat with a widely overhanging eave that rests on exposed steel I-beam rafters.

The entrance to the school is in the main block and is slightly off-center with the section on the right being slightly taller to accommodate the auditorium/library. This auditorium section features a series of steel awning-type windows with a painted panel below and above for two-thirds of the elevation and brick on the right one-third, corresponding to the area behind the stage in the auditorium. The entrance is framed by brick wing walls that extend about three feet from the façade. Entrance is gained through painted metal three-light double doors with three fixed lights on each side and a four-light transom. The façade to the left of the entrance is filled with a series of twelve three-part (six-light) steel awning-type windows over single panels (the cafeteria) and twenty shorter three-part (four-light) louvered windows (kitchen). The brick wall below the windows is divided into ten sections by painted exposed steel framing (the cafeteria/kitchen wing has an identical south elevation).

On the east elevation, the classroom wing connects diagonally to the front wing with two of the three-part (six-light) windows on the short angled wall that connects the two blocks. To the left of this are double-leaf, louvered metal doors into the mechanical room. An entrance framed by brick wing walls, as on the façade, lead to a short hallway into the classroom wing and is filled with double-leaf three-light metal doors with a two-light transom. To the left is a long window wall composed of thirty three-part (six-light) windows (reflecting three classrooms), set over the brick panels as seen on the façade, an entrance the same as just described; ten of the shorter three-part (four-light) windows over brick (this corresponds to the student bathrooms); ten three-part (six-light) windows, reflecting one classroom; an entrance mirroring the others; and twenty three-part (six-light) windows, reflecting two classrooms.

The west side of the classroom wing also has window walls- tall windows over brick- along the hallway sections. The end walls of the short classroom windows are brick with centered, recessed entries filled with the three-light double-leaf doors with two-light transoms. The side elevations of these wings are also window walls, looking out onto the courtyard areas between the wings.

On the interior, the left side of the wall of the main hall is covered with rectangular white ceramic tile brick up to a band of two-light transom windows that runs along the top of the wall for the length of the hall. The right side of the hall has exposed brick walls. The short halls that branch off of the main hall are lined with ceramic tile brick with the same transom panel as the main hall except that they are found on both sides of these halls.

The front administration block contains the principal's office which has exposed brick with two bays: a single-leaf flush wood door with a single-light window over a wood panel to the left, and a single-leaf flush wood door that provides access to a closet. The school office is attached to the principal's office and is accessed from a short hall on the right. This hall has exposed brick walls. The office has a single-leaf flush wood door on either end of a bank of five single-light

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

fixed windows over five wood panels. The entire bay is capped with a seven-light transom. The cafeteria walls are concrete block and, as with the rest of the public spaces, the steel rafters are exposed. The exposed brick-walled auditorium doubles as a library with shelves placed against walls and at the base of the stage. There is no decorative proscenium as the brick walls form the sides of the stage and an exposed I-beam rafter forms the top of the stage opening.

Spann School, both on the exterior and in the interior, retains its integrity of materials, design and massing.

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education
Architecture

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

Period of Significance

1958-1967

Significant Dates

1958

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Overstreet, Ware and Ware

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Pearl Spann Elementary School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with education and Criterion C, being locally significant as an intact example of the architectural design skill of Mississippi architectural firm, Overstreet, Ware and Ware. Built in 1958, the building reflects the growth of the city of Jackson after World War II as well as the city's commitment to providing quality educational facilities for its newly annexed suburbs. Spann Elementary retains its integrity of design and materials, both on the exterior and interior, massing, and location.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The first European settlement in the area that is now Jackson, Mississippi, was in the late 18th century by Louis LeFleur, a French-Canadian trader. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the surrounding area was traversed by the Natchez Trace, a major trading route for Native Americans and later American settlers. In 1821, the Mississippi General Assembly commissioned Thomas Hinds (for whom Hinds County is named), James Patton, and William

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

Lattimore to survey the central part of the state to identify a more central location for the state's capital, which at that time was in Natchez. Having identified the area of Jackson as suitable and bountiful in resources, a legislative act was passed in late 1821 which authorized the location to be the permanent seat of state government.

The city was named for Andrew Jackson, who would become the nation's seventh president, in recognition of his victory in the War of 1812 in the Battle of New Orleans. Jackson was laid out in 1822 by Peter A. Van Dorn. In 1840, the railroad arrived in Jackson, linking the city to Vicksburg. The following year, the Jackson to Canton line was chartered, and in 1858, a rail line was completed from Jackson to New Orleans. Due in part to the existence of the rail lines, Jackson became a strategic manufacturing center for the Confederacy during the Civil War, but was captured in 1863 by the Union Army under the command of William Tecumseh Sherman. The capital city suffered great damage from fires set by both sides, thereafter giving Jackson the nickname- Chimneyville.¹

Jackson grew slowly in the late 19th century but did not become the largest city in the state until the 1920s. In 1900, less than 8,000 people inhabited the city of Jackson. That number grew to 22,817 by 1920 and to 48,282 in 1930, spurred by the discovery of natural gas nearby in 1929, and to 62,107 in 1940, after the 1939 discovery of oil in Yazoo County. Jackson experienced a tremendous jump in population after World War II, increasing from 144,422 in 1950 to 144,422 in 1960. This increase in residents represented not only increased density within the downtown area, but also marked the beginning of the creation of new automobile centered neighborhoods to the west and north of downtown.

Criterion A- Education

It is likely that the first schools in Jackson were private ones as evidenced by ads for Miss Judd's classes for young ladies beginning in about 1835. A notice in a local newspaper in 1838 also announced that Mr. Ramsey would open the Jackson Classical and Mathematical School, offering courses in Latin, Greek and the upper branches of mathematics.² In 1844, the Jackson city council enacted an ordinance to establish a common school, and the Jackson Male Academy and the Jackson Female Academy opened for the 1848 school term in two brick buildings on the College Green.³ The boys' school became a munitions plant during the Civil War and was subsequently destroyed, requiring the girls to attend school in various churches after the war while the boys used the girl's building. The post-war years were described as "extremely hard and difficult years for the schools."⁴ By the mid-1880s, the Jackson Municipal School District operated two schools that served white students- College Green School and West Jackson School. In 1888, a group of interested and influential citizens urged the city council and the school trustees to establish a centralized graded school system for white students.⁵ In January

¹ Bern Keating. *Mississippi*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1982. p.111.

² William Moore Dalehite. *A History of the Public Schools in Jackson, Mississippi, 1835-1972*. Jackson, MS: Jackson Public Schools, 1974.

³ Dalehite, 10.

⁴ Dalehite, 19.

⁵ Dalehite, 31.

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

1889, the pupils and staff from the ungraded schools were moved into the new Central School building, the first graded school for whites, which was located at the corner of North West and E. Griffith streets. Enrollment at the school in the first year totaled 321 in grades 1-9.⁶ Within a decade, a tenth grade was added. In 1897, the district's second graded school for whites opened, the West Jackson School.⁷

The first public education for black students was possibly located in a fire house. However, in 1870, Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice J. Tarbell organized a school for blacks on West Pearl Street. The school was later moved to the St. James Hotel on South Street and then to the Benevolent Society Hall on the Corner of Farish Street and Griffith Street.⁸ In 1892, the State Superintendent of Education issued an opinion that the trustees of the Separate School District of Jackson had responsibility for all public schools in the city, including schools for black children. At the time, the black school was located on North Farish Street with 420 students enrolled.⁹ In 1894, the City Council enacted an ordinance "providing for the issuance of bonds amounting to \$7,500 for the erection of a school building for colored children, and the payment of the purchase price for the lot on which said building is to be constructed."¹⁰ A frame building was built on Bloom Street and named for Smith Robertson, a former slave who served as an alderman from 1893 until his death in 1899. The school burned in 1909, but a new building was completed in September of the same year.

In 1902, the city council directed the trustees to build a new elementary school for whites to relieve the crowded conditions of the Central School. The following year, the Robert E. Lee School opened on S. President Street. Very shortly after its opening, enrollment reached capacity. In 1906, the Jefferson Davis School (elementary) opened with Lorena Duling as principal. In 1907, the district decided to convert Central School into the city's first high school and renamed it Jackson Central High School. That same year, George School (elementary) opened on the corner of S. Gallatin and W. Winter and an annex was added to the "Negro School" building. Enrollment of black students increased and, in 1912, the Jim Hill School was constructed at 1060 Lynch Street to help alleviate overcrowding. Meanwhile, to accommodate the continued growth of the white population, the Power School (elementary) opened at the corner of N. State Street and E. Pinehurst Street in 1916. In 1921, Barr Elementary School opened at the corner of W. Capitol and S. Ethelmore.

In the early 1920s, the school board was concerned that the city might expand its limits to include the developing communities to the north and west. In anticipation of the expansion, they commissioned architect Claude H. Lindsley to design two schools for the growing communities west and north of the city. In 1927, Whitfield School opened to serve the new neighborhood to the west, and the Lorena Duling School opened to serve the growing Fondren neighborhood to the north.

⁶ Dalehite, 38.

⁷ Dalehite, 76.

⁸ Lanier Jr.-Sr. High School, National Register of Historic Places nomination, September 2014.

⁹ Dalehite, 61.

¹⁰ Smith Robertson School, National Register of Historic Places nomination, July 1978.

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

Jackson experienced a tremendous jump in population after World War II, increasing from 62,107 in 1940 to 98,271 in 1950 and 144,422 by 1960. Part of the growth was due to several annexations which expanded the city's boundaries from sixteen square miles to sixty-eight square miles in June 1949, to seventy-one square miles in 1960.¹¹ The tremendous growth in Jackson's population necessitated the request in 1956 for a \$45,000,000 school bond issue. The issue on Tuesday, May 8, 1956 passed by a vote of almost nine to one.¹² This bond issue funded the construction of three white elementary schools, one white junior high school, four temporary classroom units for an elementary school, one black elementary school, one black junior high school, and alterations and additions to a black junior high and high school.¹³ One of the schools to be built with this bond money was Spann Elementary. At the dedication of the building, Dr. Kirby Walker, superintendent of Jackson Public Schools, announced that the "magnificent school plant" cost \$437,000 and housed 437 students.¹⁴ An article in the *Clarion Ledger* at the start of the 1958 school year reported that Spann was the only white elementary school completed by the start of school with two others slated for completion in 1959.¹⁵ The article also stated that despite the "6.5 million school construction program instigated in 1956 rapidly nearing completion, the district will still be approximately 109 classrooms behind in January 1960.

Jackson schools were named after input from citizens of the school district for "persons not living, preferably former teachers, administrators, and trustees in the service of Jackson Public Schools or of other local citizens whose philanthropic or educational leadership were of outstanding repute."¹⁶ Pearl Spann Elementary School was named for a devoted teaching professional who spent her entire career educating and influencing the lives of Jackson school children. Susie Pearl Spann, the oldest daughter of six children, was born April 1, 1888, in Rankin County, Mississippi. After her family moved to Jackson, Susie Pearl entered the Central School in the fifth grade and graduated in the class of 1905. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Millsaps College in 1909 and accepted her first teaching position with Jackson Public Schools. She also took graduate classes at the University of Chicago, Columbia, Ole Miss, Tulane and Millsaps. Ms. Spann taught at George, Poindexter, Central and Murrah schools in Jackson. Her teaching career ended after forty-seven continuous years when she retired in May 1956 because of ill health. She died three months later. In memory of a life dedicated to service in education of the young, the grateful city of Jackson appropriately named one of its schools in her honor, Pearl Spann Elementary School.

Criterion C- Architecture

¹¹ Jackson Separate School District. "Schools: Jackson, Mississippi, 1963." p 6.

¹² Almost 9 to 1." *Clarion-Ledger*, 9 May 1956, p 1.

¹³ "Keep Building Jackson Schools but Student Population Gains." *Clarion-Ledger*, 28 September 1958, p 2.

¹⁴ "Miss Pearl Remembered with School Dedication." *Clarion-Ledger*, 14 November 1958, p 1.

¹⁵ "Keep Building Jackson Schools."

¹⁶ "Hattie Casey Honored. Another School Seeking a Name." *Clarion-Ledger*, 7 August 1960, p 12.

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

Pearl Spann Elementary School is architecturally significant as a local example of Modernist design. The building was designed by the firm of Overstreet, Ware and Ware in the Modernist style which emphasizes functionality and horizontality and rejects applied decorative treatment because the materials and construction technique used becomes the ornament. This concept is evident in the design of Spann in that there are no applied decorations and the beauty of the building is in the use of horizontal bands of windows, and rhythm of exposed vertical structural members. The building exhibits other tenets of Modernism including an asymmetrical façade and a window grid that expresses the interior functions. Further, Modernist design emphasizes rational and efficient use of space. Spann Elementary School's design clearly exemplifies this concept with the use of materials such as tile and unpainted brick for the interior spaces, which require little maintenance; and the use of bands of windows and bands of transom windows on the interior to provide both light and air. The location of the auditorium and cafeteria in a block away from the classrooms also reduces noise for the classrooms and the three small classroom wings allow students to be grouped by ages. Moving many of the classrooms to short wings also breaks up what could have been a long double-loaded corridor, and it allows the single-loaded corridor to be flooded with light from the window walls on one side.

The choice of the Modernist style was not necessarily the choice of the architect. The use of the style resulted in the need for a less formalized floor plan, one that would provide more flexibility and expansion. This led architects away from the emphasis on symmetry and classical proportions of the former Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles.¹⁷ After 1955, almost all the new schools built in Mississippi employed Modernist design. According to Mark Gelernter in his book, *A History of American Architecture, Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context*, in the 1950s there was an increased emphasis on the family which sparked a dramatic population explosion- 140 million in 1945 to almost 192 million in 1964. This "fueled a huge demand for new homes, home-based consumer goods, and schools."¹⁸ He further explains that because of the development of new technologies during World War II and immediately afterward, "America acquired a new enthusiasm for technology which eventually influenced architectural developments in this period."¹⁹ These developments led to a widespread acceptance of Modernism as the most appropriate architectural expression of the time. Modernism symbolized a break with the past and emphasized rational and efficient building technology. According to Gelernter, the Modernist conception of design as rational problem-solving appealed to the generation that had similarly used rational problem-solving methods to tackle the logistical complexities of the largest war in history.²⁰ Governments also viewed the Modernist style as rational, efficient and confident.

Prior to World War II, the Mississippi State Department of Education's standards required that school buildings be designed in one of the "alphabet plans" which resembled the letters E, H, T,

¹⁷ Jennifer V.O. Baughn. "Education, Segregation and Modernism: Mississippi's School Equalization Building Program, 1946-1961." *ARRIS* Vol. 16, pg. 49-50.

¹⁸ Mark Gelernter. *A History of American Architecture, Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999. 262.

¹⁹ Gelernter, 263.

²⁰ Gelernter, 263.

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

L and U. The philosophy for these designs hinged on scientific research that stipulated children's light needs for reading and writing. Taking into account the reality that electric light was not always available and was not the best source for such close work anyway, the plans made the most of natural light and ventilation. Wings of classrooms, arranged along a transom-lit, double-loaded corridor, featured large banks of windows facing east and west.²¹

By the 1950s, new designs were supported by the State Educational Finance Commission which were often sprawling footprints that were called "finger type," cluster type," and "multiple purpose campus type." These plans were said to work well in warm, sunny climates because they had outdoor corridors allowing for learning and nature.²² The cluster type of design was the favorite during the late 1950s. The name "cluster" refers to the different functions clustered in certain parts of a building, for instance, concentrating younger students in one wing away from older ones and the concentrating the cafeteria and vocational shop away from both. The new school plans seem to sprawl out indiscriminately with classroom wings facing all directions while shops, auditoriums, cafeterias sprout on different sides, and no pattern emerges to encourage further classification. Pearl Spann Elementary School is a result of the cluster type of design, but according to Jennifer Baughn in her article "Education, Segregation and Modernism: Mississippi's School Equalization Building Program, 1946-1961," the design of Spann School takes the new plans further and shows the imagination of Overstreet, Ware and Ware and their willingness to experiment with the cluster type.²³

In addition to Spann, there were eleven elementary school building built in Jackson between 1956 and 1963.²⁴ None of these is designed like Spann with short double-loaded halls that extend from a central hallway. Six of these schools are designed in a cluster format including Marshall Elementary (1956), Lee Elementary (1959), Casey Elementary (1961), Wilkins Elementary (1963) and Clausell Elementary (1962), but none is designed in the configuration of Spann. While they are all Modernist inspired, five of the schools are configured in the alphabet patterns of L, U, T, and X. The architectural design of Spann Elementary is unique within the context of elementary schools of the same period in Jackson.

Pearl Spann Elementary School was designed by the architectural firm of Overstreet, Ware and Ware, which operated from 1955 to 1962 and in that short period is credited with designing a number of impressive buildings. These include Baptist Hospital in Jackson (1954), First National Bank in Jackson (1956, in association with James T. Canizaro), No. 5 Fire Station in Jackson (1957), the terminal building at Jackson International Airport (1961), and Smith Hall on the campus of Mississippi State University. In 1962, they added Edwin R. Lewis, an engineer, to the firm and changed the name to Overstreet, Ware, Ware and Lewis. They designed mostly university and public buildings until 1968 when John Ware left the firm to become the director of facilities planning for Memorial Hospital at the University of North Carolina and later joined

²¹ Baughn, 39.

²² Baughn, 48.

²³ Baughn, 52.

²⁴ Mississippi Department of Archives and History. "Post-World-War-II Jackson Public Schools ADDENDUM TO MISSISSIPPI LANDMARK CONSIDERATION REPORT." ND.

Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

the Walt Disney Co. as project manager for the construction of The Land pavilion at Epcot Center.²⁵

The main principal in the firm was Noah Webster Overstreet, a well-known and accomplished architect who grew up on the small community of Eastabuchie, twelve miles north of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. In the fall of 1904, Overstreet enrolled in classes at Mississippi A and M (Mississippi State University), where he was influenced by the number of new buildings that were erected on the campus, many of which were designed by Reuben Harrison Hunt, an architect whose primary office was in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Overstreet spent a summer working in Hunt's office where he would have benefited from the architect's encouragement and openness to new ideas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1908 and continued his education at the University of Illinois. Upon graduation in 1910, he stayed in Champaign –Urbana to work in the engineering firm of Joseph W. Royer.²⁶

In January 1912, Overstreet returned to Jackson, Mississippi and established the firm Overstreet & Spencer with Raymond B. Spencer, and continued in their partnership until 1915, when he began practicing independently. His return to his home state coincided with a period of rapid economic development which afforded him excellent opportunities to use his architectural skills and he soon assumed a position of leadership within the architectural community. His office became Mississippi's largest in the 1920s as he gained major public commissions around the state, the largest being the new state hospital campus at Whitfield from 1926 through 1935. In 1931, Overstreet established a partnership with A. Hays Town as Overstreet & Town, which lasted until 1939. This firm was responsible for many of Mississippi's depression-era public works projects. Several of these, including Bailey Junior High School in Jackson (1936), Columbia High School (1937), and Bowmar Elementary and Cherry Street schools in Vicksburg (1939) received national attention in architectural journals for their modernist design and use of concrete. Overstreet joined forces with Joseph T. Ware, Jr. and John M. Ware in 1955.²⁷

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has identified more than one hundred and fifty school buildings or additions to school buildings that were designed by Overstreet's firms. Over the course of his career, Overstreet produced more than 650 buildings across Mississippi, which included schools, churches, hospitals, businesses, and courthouses. He retired from practice in 1968 and at the end of his career, twenty-four of the then forty-two architects working in Jackson had been employed in his office at some time. Overstreet became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1952, nominated for his "notable and outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of architecture by his excellent designs as well as the educational service rendered by him to younger men."²⁸ Pearl Spann School is an important work of Overstreet's late career.

²⁵ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory Database. Retrieved 20 February 2017, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History website: <http://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public>.

²⁶ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory Database.

²⁷ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory Database.

²⁸ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory Database.

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baughn, Jennifer V. O. "Education, Segregation and Modernism: Mississippi's School Equalization Building Program, 1946-1961." *ARRIS* 16, 37.

Clarion-Ledger. Jackson, Mississippi, 1956-1961.

Dalehite, William Moore. *A History of Public Schools in Jackson, Mississippi, 1835-1972*. Jackson, MS: The Jackson Public Schools, 1974.

Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture, Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999.

The Jaeger Company. *From Frontier Capital to Modern City: A History of Jackson's Built Environment, 1895-1970*.

Keating, Bern. *Mississippi*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1982.

Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory Database. Retrieved 20 February 2017, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History website:
<http://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public>.

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 049-JAC-4722

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 32°21'32.56"N Longitude: 90° 8'28.24"W

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel Number 574-300. Beginning E/S Ridgewood Road at S/S Brecon Drive, thence S 615 Ft E 450 Ft N 50 Ft E 300 Ft N 16 Ft NW 600 Ft W/LY 406 Ft to Beginning in SW ¼ SW ¼ Sec 18 T6 R2E Less TRI NW Corner to City for Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries follow property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.

11. Form Prepared By

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State

name/title: Nancy H. Bell
organization: Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation
street & number: 1107 Washington Street
city or town: Vicksburg state: MS zip code: 39183
e-mail: vburgfoundation@aol.com
telephone: 601-636-5010
date: 28 February 2017

Additional Documentation

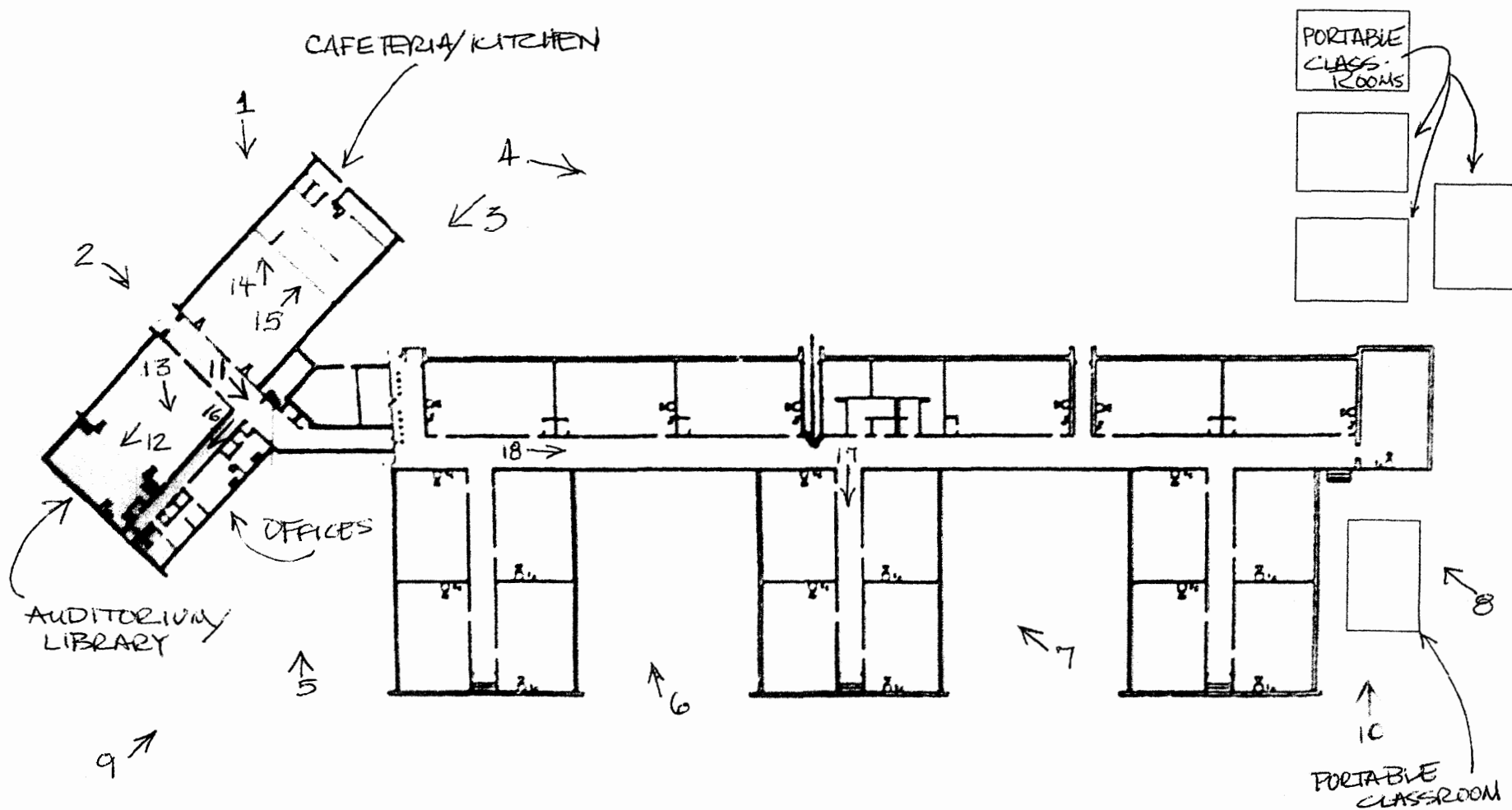
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Pearl Spann Elementary School
Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi
County and State



- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Pearl Spann Elementary School
 1615 Brecon Drive
 Jackson, Hinds County, MS



Pearl Spann Elementary School

Name of Property

Hinds, Mississippi

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Pearl Spann Elementary School
City or Vicinity:	Jackson
County:	Hinds
State:	MS
Photographer:	Nancy H. Bell
Date Photographed:	February 2017
Location of Original Digital Files:	1107 Washington Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

0001 of 18	north façade, view to southwest
0002 of 18	north façade, front doors, view to south
0003 of 18	left (east) side, view to west
0004 of 18	left (east) side, view to south
0005 of 18	right (west) side, view to east
0006 of 18	right side, first and second clusters, view to northeast
0007 of 18	center cluster, right side, view to northeast
0008 of 18	south end, view to north
0009 of 18	west elevation, view to southeast
0010 of 18	south end and temporary classroom, view to east
0011 of 18	interior hall at office, view to southwest
0012 of 18	auditorium/library, view to southwest
0013 of 18	auditorium/library, view to southeast
0014 of 18	cafeteria, view to southeast
0015 of 18	cafeteria, view to east
0016 of 18	hall, view to northwest
0017 of 18	hall, view to southwest
0018 of 18	hall, view to south

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Pearl Spann Elen Hinds, MS 0001



Pearl Spann Elem thinks, MS 0002



Pearl Spann Elem Hinds, MS 003



Pearl Spann Ekins Hinds, MS 0004



Pearl SpannElem

think, ms

oos



Pearl Spann Elem
Hinds, MS

00006



Pearl / Spann Elem
Hinds, ms

00007



Pearl Spann Ellen Hinds, MS 00008



Pearl Spann Elem Hinds, MS 00009



Pearl Spann Elem Hinds, MS 0010



Pearl Spann Elem Hinds, MS 0011



Pearl Spann Elem Hinds, MS 0012



Pearl Spann Elem Hinds, MS 0013



Pearl SpannElem. Hinds, MS 0014



EXTENDED
LEARNING
SOLUTIONS

Pearl Spann Elem

Hinds, MS

0015



STRIVE 5
for less than 5 absences
#attendancematters



WINTER 2014
DECEMBER 2014
JANUARY 2015
WINTER 2015

Pearl Spann Elem. Hinds, MS 0016



Pearl Spann Elem Hnds, MS 0017



Pearl Spann Elem.

Hnds, MS

0018