

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lessel House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Railroad Street at Brooks Avenue not for publication

city, town Pelahatchie vicinity of congressional district Third

state Mississippi code 28 county Rankin code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Paul E. Edwards

street & number

city, town Pelahatchie vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number P. O. Box 126

city, town Brandon vicinity of state Mississippi

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 vicinity of state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lessel House faces south on Railroad Street near the southwest corner of the intersection with Brooks Avenue. Until it was torn down in 1974, the Alabama and Vicksburg (IC) Railroad station stood across the street and railroad tracks from the Lessel House.

The five-by-twelve-bay brick building is turn-of-the-century commercial vernacular in style. On the front facade the most prominent architectural features are a pressed metal cornice and central pediment and a continuous brick belt course which forms a drip molding over the second-story fenestration. The building retains its original exterior doors and two-over-two windows. The current corrugated metal canopy is in place of the building's original one-story simple wooden porch, which had a balustrade on the first and second levels.

When the Lessel House was built, it contained twenty-six bedrooms, six downstairs, twenty upstairs, each with a fireplace. A large lobby, dining area, and kitchen were on the main floor. Later renovations removed most of the wall partitions on the first floor as well as the central stairs. However, the second story is relatively intact.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1896

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lessel House at Pelahatchie is one of the few late nineteenth-century railroad hotels remaining in Mississippi. In the early twentieth century, the town was a scheduled meal stop on the Alabama and Vicksburg (IC) Railroad run between Vicksburg and Meridian, Mississippi. Located across from the depot, the Lessel House became widely known as an outstanding hotel, especially for the quality of its food and service. Even though the railroad discontinued meal stops at Pelahatchie in the early 1920's, the Lessel House continued as a locally prominent hotel and boarding house until the 1950's.

9: Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report: Palahatchie, Mississippi. Seventy-fifth Anniversary Issue. Jackson: Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, 1979.

Coats, C. C., a former owner. Interviewed by Inez Watts Summer at Pelahatchie, Ms., fall 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Pelahatchie, Ms.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	6	2	3	6	4	4	0	3	5	7	8	3	1	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Deed Book 353, page 152.

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 Mrs. Inez Watts Summer

organization Rankin Co. Historical Society

date Fall 1979

street & number P. O. Box 841

telephone

city or town Brandon

state Mississippi

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elmer B. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 30, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

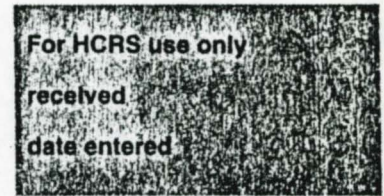
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 9, 11

Page 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ross, E. N., Jr., son of a former owner. Interviewed by Inez Watts Summer at Pelathatchie, Ms., fall 1979.

11 - FORM PREPARED BY

Lloyd Ostby, Architectural Historian
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi

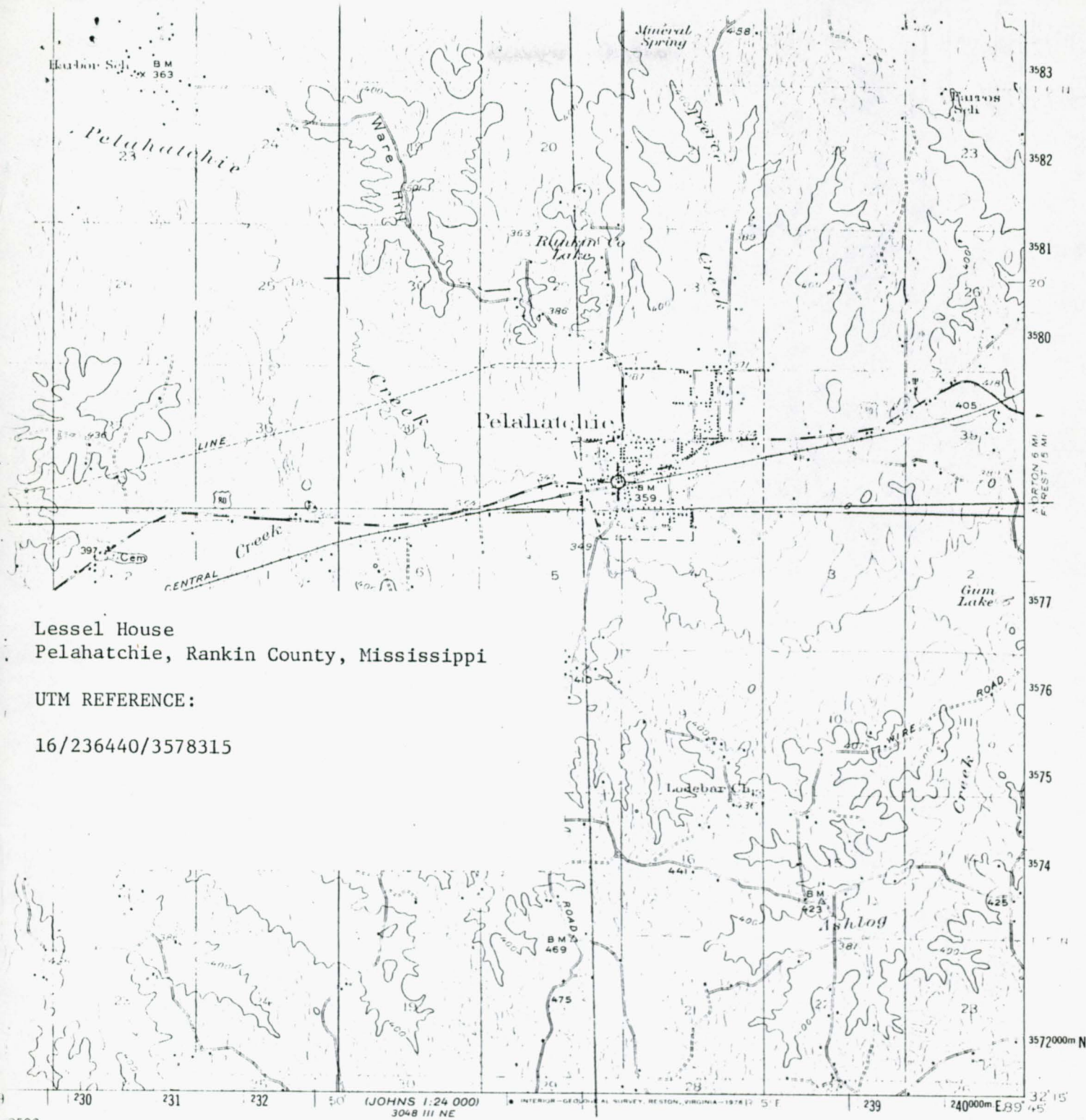
May 1980
(601) 354-7326

LESSEL HOUSE Pelahatchie, Rankin County, Mississippi



Drawing made from an early photograph of the building showing the original porch.

Helen Alderman
1979



Lessel House
 Pelahatchie, Rankin County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCE:
 16/236440/3578315



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS		DRY WEATHER ROADS	
Heavy-duty	Improved dirt	Light-duty	Unimproved dirt
Medium-duty			

{ } U. S. Route ○ State Route

PELAHATCHIE, MISS.
 N3215-W8345/15

1950

AMS 3048 IV-SERIES V743

VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3048 II NW
 (POLKVILLE)
 1:24,000



THE LESSEY
HOUSE

ANTIQUES



Lessel House

Pelahatchie, Rankin County, Mississippi

Lloyd Ostby, Mississippi Department of
Archives and History

May, 1980

South (front) and east elevations, view to
northwest

Photo No. 2



1888
THE LESSEL
HOUSE

Lessel House

Pelahatchie, Rankin County, Mississippi

Lloyd Ostby, Mississippi Department of
Archives and History

May, 1980

South (front) and west elevations, view to
northeast

Photo No. 1