

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

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

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

For HCRS use only

received FEB 25 1980

date entered APR 17 1980

1. Name

historic Amite Female Seminary

and/or common Little Red Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number MS Highway 569 not for publication

city, town Liberty vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Mississippi code 28 county Amite code 28

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Amite County Board of Supervisors

street & number Amite County Courthouse

city, town Liberty vicinity of state Mississippi 39645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk

street & number Amite County Courthouse

city, town Liberty state Mississippi 39645

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ nodate 1975 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi 39205

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 Amite Female Seminary museum faces north on Highway 569, near the center of the town of Liberty, the Amite county seat. The only extant structure left from the original group of frame buildings which comprised the campus of the Amite Female Seminary, the building is a two-story gable-front three-by-three-bay brick structure which survived the destruction of the rest of the campus by Union troops in 1863. On the front (north) elevation a well-proportioned double gallery is supported by modified Tuscan columns, and surmounted by a frame pediment with a board-and-batten tympanum. The tympanum was originally finished with horizontal flush-boarded members which were replaced by the present configuration during the repair of the structure in 1979. The gallery pediment is framed by a simple boxed cornice with returns. The original boarded porch rails on the second floor of the gallery were replaced by wrought iron fencing; and the gallery stairs, which led to the central second floor entrance, was removed. The windowless rear (south) elevation features a striking stepped roof parapet, with an exterior stair (added in 1979) leading to a second-floor entrance door. Fenestration on the side and front elevations consists of six-over-six-light double-hung sash framed by flat-faced architraves. An interesting bowed-gable frame gazebo is situated approximately ten feet northwest of the building. The gazebo is built on a solid brick foundation with latticed walls and wool-shingled roof and pediment. The interior of the structure features a single room on each floor, with plastered brick walls. The museum has not yet been completely furnished.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 1853

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1853, the Amite Female Seminary museum is an important symbol of the private educational academies which flourished in the town of Liberty during the nineteenth century. Retaining its original roof, side-wall and gallery configurations, the structure possesses a fair degree of architectural integrity.

The Amite Female Seminary was established in 1853 by the Rev. Milton S. Shirk, under the administration of the Mississippi Baptist Association. The school was one of three private female academies in Liberty, the other two being the Amite County Female Academy (1859) and Liberty and Female College of Liberty (1890). The well-rounded educational program of the school included literature, history, science, mathematics, modern languages, philosophy, music and physical education courses. Its student body was comprised of young women from Amite and the surrounding Mississippi counties, as well as a few from Louisiana and Texas. In 1863, during its tenth year of successful operation, the school buildings were burned by Union troops. The extant music building survived the destruction, and was used subsequently by the town of Liberty as a schoolhouse. From 1968 until 1975 the building was used as a public library. Repair and the planned reuse of the structure as a museum after 1975 was initiated by the Amite River Chapter of the Mississippi Daughters of the American Revolution, and repairs were completed in 1979 under the direction of the Amite County Board of Supervisors.

The architectural significance of the building was diminished after the removal of some of the original building fabric when repairs were made during the past year, including the removal of the original entrance door, gallery stair and window sash. However, these changes do not detract from the overall proportions and curious small scale of the building. The building retains its two major architectural features--the Greek Revival double gallery on the front facade, and the stepped-gable roof parapet on the rear elevation. The stepped gable is an especially interesting Adamesque detail associated also with two residences in Amite County constructed during the same ten year period: the Talbert-Cassels House and the Winston Wilkinson House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Amite County and Liberty, Mississippi Sesqui-Centennial. Gloster, Miss.: Wilk-Amite Record, 1959.

Catalogue of the Officers and Pupils of the Amite Female Seminary. Nashville, Tenn.: Graves, Marks and Company, 1856.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Liberty

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

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7	0	9	1	7	5
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3	4	4	9	2	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See boundary line on enclosed sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack A. Gold

Research Consultant

organization

date January, 1980

street & number 811 Fairview Street

telephone 601/354-7326

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi 39202

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

Ellen B. Williams

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 15, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

for W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register

date

4/17/80

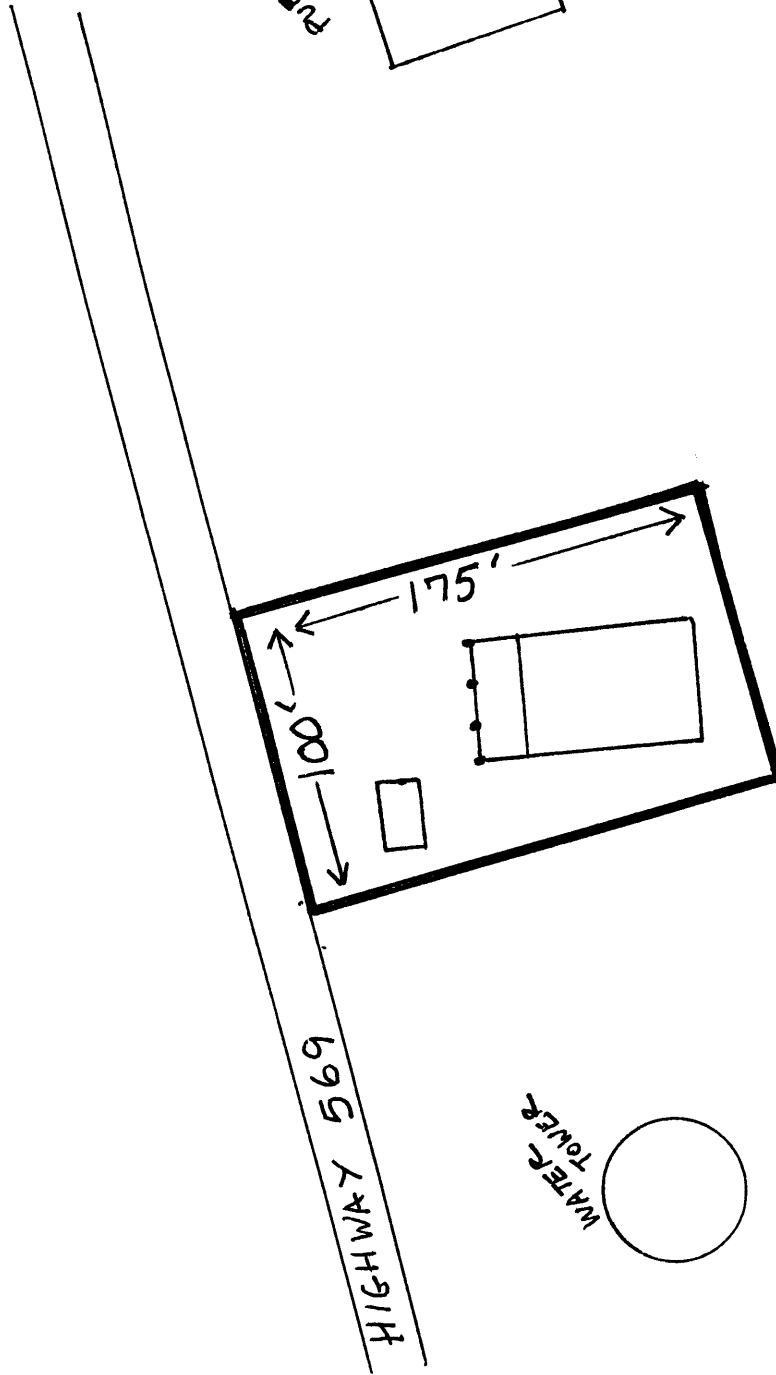
Attest:

Law A. Dubie

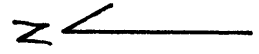
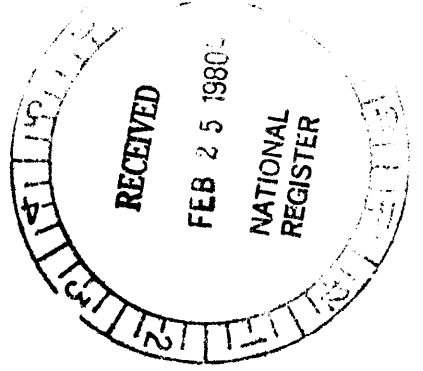
date

4/16/80

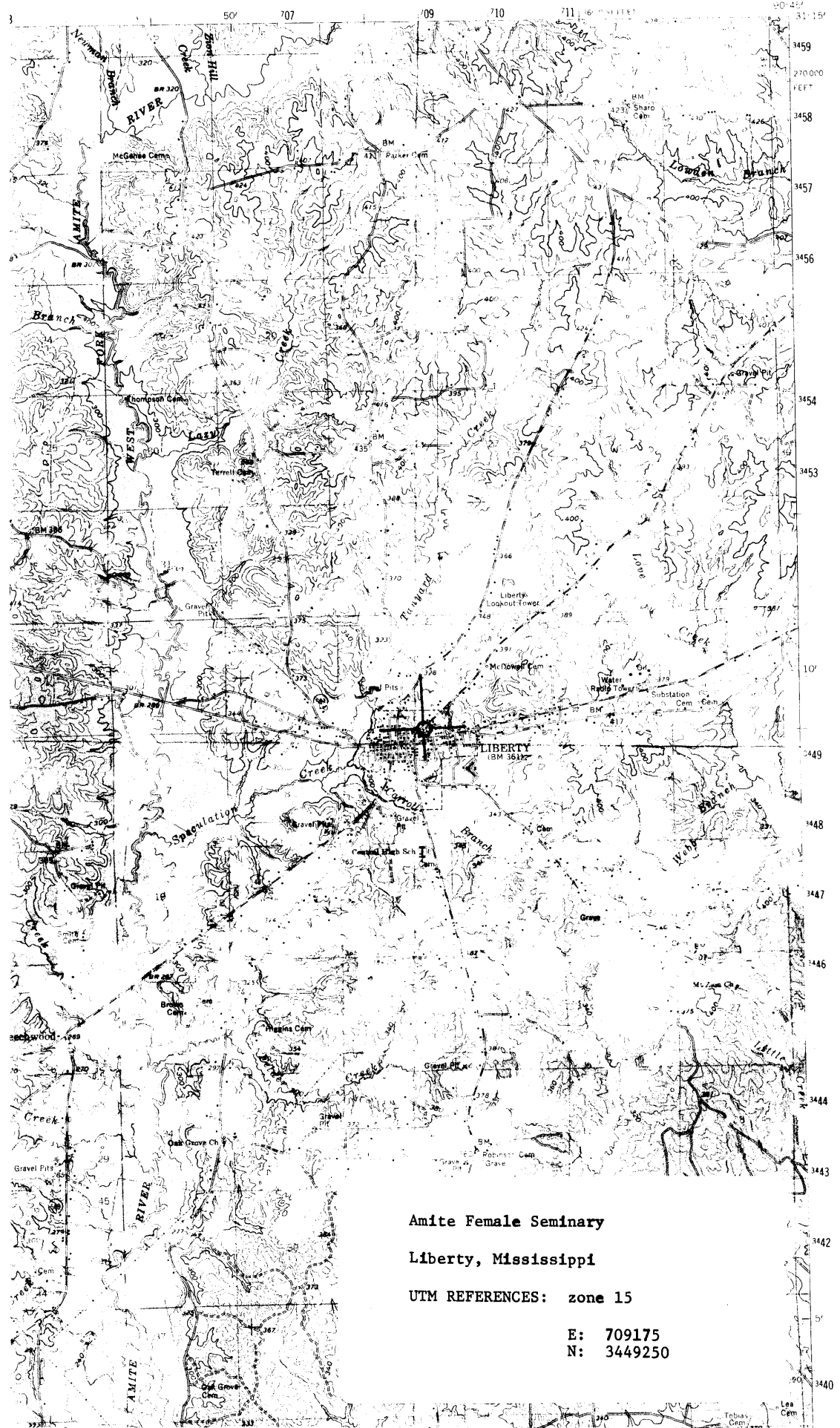
Chief of Registration



SKETCH MAP
Amite Female Seminary
Liberty, Mississippi
Property boundaries: —



LIBERTY QUADRANGLE
MISSISSIPPI-AMITE CO.
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Amite Female Seminary

Liberty, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES: zone 15

E: 709175
N: 3449250



AMITE FEMALE SEMINARY

Liberty, Amite County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1979

North (front elevation); view to southwest.

Photo No. 1 of 4

FEB 25 1980

APR 17 1980



AMITE FEMALE SEMINARY

Liberty, Amite County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1979

South and east elevations; view to northeast.

Photo No. 3 of 4

APR 17 1980

FEB 25 1980



AMITE FEMALE SEMINARY

Liberty, Amite County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1979

South and west elevations; view to northeast.

Photo No. 2 of 4

APR 17 1980

FEB 25 1980



AMITE FEMALE SEMINARY

Liberty, Amite County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1979

Gazebo; view to east.

Photo No. 4 of 4

APR 17 1980

FEB 25 1980