

**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

**1. Name**

historic Old Delta Democrat Times Building

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 201 - 203 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Greenville N/A vicinity of congressional district 2nd.

state Mississippi code 28 county Washington code 151

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Andrews Realty

street & number 172 Clover Circle

city, town Greenville N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chancery Clerk's Office

street & number Washington Avenue

city, town Greenville, state Mississippi

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date

N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and Walnut Streets in downtown Greenville, Mississippi, the Delta Democrat Times Building is a two-story brick commercial building with shed roof. The northerly elevation is divided into three bays with the second-story windows set within recessed panels. The windows, which have had their original arched wooden sash replaced by metal casement type windows, are set beneath molded, arched window caps. The first-story northerly facade is divided into three bays by four, molded and paneled composite columns, and the windows and doors of the bays have been replaced by modern glass windows and a single door.

The westerly facade is divided into eight bays on the second-story level. The windows of this elevation have been altered like the windows of the northerly facade and by the insertion of solid panels in the three southernmost windows. The first story of the westerly facade was almost totally altered around 1900 with only the entrance doorway of the southernmost bay retaining its original character. The cast-iron columns located on the westerly elevation date to the ca. 1910 remodeling. In 1946, the whole section of wall beneath the second-story windows was rebuilt and re-pointed. The entrance doorway of the western elevation is unaltered and consists of double-leaf glazed doors set beneath a transom, the whole of which is enframed by turned metal columns supporting a full entablature with dentiled cornice. The east wall, similar to the west side, has three of the original chimney pots.

The interior of the downstairs has been considerably altered. Generally, the downstairs area is an open room (30' x 150") with four cast-iron columns, the tops of which have been covered by a modern ceiling. There is a straight-run staircase which runs along the east wall. An open freight elevator is in the southeast corner of the original building. In 1946, a one-story addition was made across the rear of the south end.

One of the most outstanding features of the building is the original stairway hall entrance which provides a private entrance to the upstairs. It consists of a circular attached stairway with an octagonal newel, and rectangular balusters. The walls are of original plaster with a small alcove. Access to this entrance is not presently possible from upstairs or street entrance. The upstairs portion has experienced subsequent renovation especially since the printing presses were housed on this floor. Unusually wide original baseboards are visible on the east wall.

The one story brick building is connected by two large openings in the east wall of the two-story building. The bank vault was removed in the late 1930's and provides one of the openings to the smaller building. The original two sky lights in this area have been boarded up.

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

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**Specific dates**      1943-1968      **Builder/Architect**      unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old Delta Democrat Times Building, ca. 1881, is significant for its historic association with the development of Greenville, Mississippi. Also, it is one of the few surviving late nineteenth century commercial buildings left in the downtown area. The one-story building adjacent to the two-story building is associated with the Delta Democrat Times. Traditionally, they are thought of as one. It is not known precisely when this building was constructed, but the earliest deeds pertinent to the property are dated 1880 - 1883. In late 1880, John G. Arche and Samuel Brown acquired the property for \$700. It is not exactly clear what the firm of Brown & Archer was. But, in 1883, they, as owners, leased the second floor of the building to the Greenville Temple Association (Deed Book P<sub>2</sub>, P. 212). This would indicate that the edifice was constructed between 1880 and 1882. The building was then referred to as the "Temple Building". According to the newspapers, Brown & Archer moved their mill and machine shops to another location in 1889. The Greenville Temple Association remained on the second floor until April, 1914 when the Association moved into its present Masonic Lodge.

The lower floor was the home of the Greenville Bank and Trust Company from 1906 - 1910. It was during the bank's tenure a vault was installed in the east wall, projecting into the adjacent one-story building. Again, the ownership of the buildings returns to J. Albert Lake, Jr. when the bank moved. John Archer sold the building to Lake in 1902 (Deed Book 89, p. 22). The Lake family retained the property until 1977. One of the first automobile dealerships in this area was located on the lower level until 1928. According to Mr. J. Albert Lake, Jr., the building had a series of various types of tenants from 1928 until 1943. In 1943, the two buildings were leased to the Delta Democrat Times (Deed Book 318, p. 315). The editor, William Hodding Carter, Jr. received the Pulitzer Prize in 1946 for his editorials advocating racial and religious tolerance. He came to Greenville in 1936 and founded the Delta Star. Two years later, he purchased the Democrat - Times and combined them to form the Delta Democrat Times. The site at 201-203 Main Street is somewhat symbolic since it is at the foot of the levee protecting the town from the Mississippi River. Furthermore, this location complements the title of Carter's first autobiographical work, Where Main Street Meets the River. The Mississippi River was forced to change its course in 1935 and actually what was the riverbed is Lake Ferguson. No doubt Greenville's access to the Mississippi River had a profound effect on Carter since most of his books dealt with the River. This newspaper attracted many young writers in the community. His eldest son, Hodding III, former editor of the paper, has become one of the most popular spokesperson in the U.S. State Department. In 1968, the Democrat moved to another location. The Carter family sold their interest in the Delta Democrat Times in 1980.

The old Delta Democrat Times Building is now occupied by the Mississippi Industries for the Blind. However, the people of the community associate the building with the Carter family and their newspaper.

This victorian building is one of few nineteenth century commercial buildings remaining in Greenville. The majority were claimed by the Mississippi River. Although the building has received some alterations, it does retain much of its original fabric and charm.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than one acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Greenville, Miss - Ark

Quadrangle scale 1'24000

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached xerox of Sanborn map, 1931, with nominated property outlined in red. Nominated property is located in Tax Assessor's office, City Hall, Greenville, Mississippi.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A   |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clinton I. Bagley, Consultant

organization N/A

date May 11, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 1332

telephone (601) 334-4715/332-7956

city or town Greenville

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

Robert B. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 26, 1980

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Delta Democrat Times Building derives its greatest significance from its association from 1943 to 1968 with William Hodding Carter, Jr., controversial editor of the Delta Democrat Times who received the Pulitzer Prize in 1946 for his fiery editorials denouncing racism in Mississippi and the South. The building also derives significance, though to a lesser degree, as one of the very few surviving late nineteenth-century commercial buildings (approximately 5) in the downtown area of Greenville. Although altered since its original construction between 1880 and 1883, the beautifully detailed columns of the northerly facade, the side entrance with columns and entablature, and the molded hoods of the arched, second-story windows serve as tangible reminders of the characteristics of a late 19th Century building. In 1943 the building became the home of the Delta Democrat Times.

Hodding Carter and his family came to Greenville in the depths of the depression and founded the Delta Star (daily), 1936-1938. The Delta Democrat Times was formed by merger in 1938. This newspaper has an astonishing record of stands taken on the side of constitutional, legal and human justice. Jay Milner, former managing editor of the Carter paper, recalled in the December, 1970 issue of Nieman Reports:

Hodding's Pulitzer Prize for editorials urging racial harmony, for example, were written in the mid-40's, not the late '50s or early '60s. Throughout the "Silent Fifties" the Delta Democrat-Times was yelling its head off about such gut issues as black voting rights, and equal justice in the courts. Yet not one advertiser has been lost by the Delta Democrat-Times in all those years.

In 1955, the Mississippi House of Representatives censured Carter for a story he wrote criticizing the White Citizens Council. In 1960 he was attacked by the Mississippi Legislature, which alleged that he was a member of three liberal-moderate organizations, one of them (the only one he actually belonged to, he told a NEWSWEEK interviewer) being the Southern Regional Council, a widely-respected group founded in 1918 to improve race relations. He not only crusaded for reform at home but had many books published (21) in the years from 1942-1970. Also, he contributed to national magazines including Saturday Review, New York Times, Nation and Saturday Evening Post. He died April 4, 1972.

Writings: Lower Mississippi, Farrar & Rinehart, 1942; (with Ernest R. Dupuy) Civilian Defense for the United States, Farrar & Rinehart, 1942; The Winds of Fear (novel) Farrar & Rinehart, 1944; Flood Crest (novel), Rinehart, 1947; (contributor) Isabel Leighton, editor, The Aspirin Age, 1919-1941, Simon & Schuster, 1949; Southern Legacy Louisiana State University Press, 1950; (with Anthony Ragusin) Gulf Coast Country, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1951; John Law Wasn't So Wrong, Esso Standard Oil Co., 1952; Where Main Street Meets the River, Rinehart, 1953; Robert E. Lee and the Road of Honor (juvenile), Random House, 1955.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES: Newsweek, January 11, 1960; Book Week, October 20, 1963; Saturday Review, January 2, 1965; U. S. News & World Report, March 29, 1965.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bagley, Clinton I., Consultant, Greenville, Mississippi. Personal Inspection, April 12, 1980.

Carter, Hodding. "Our Town is Different"., Greenville, Mississippi, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, N.d.

Interviews:

Betty W. Carter, Greenville, Mississippi, April 28, 1980.

Tommy Gibson, Manager of Delta Democrat Times, Greenville, Mississippi, May 6, 1980.

J. Albert Lake, Jr., Greenville, Mississippi, May 5, 1980.

Stockwell, Eunice, "Index to Washington County Newspapers, Volume III." N.p., William A. Percy Library, Greenville, Mississippi.

Washington County, Mississippi Chancery Clerk, Deed Book P<sub>2</sub>. 89. 318.

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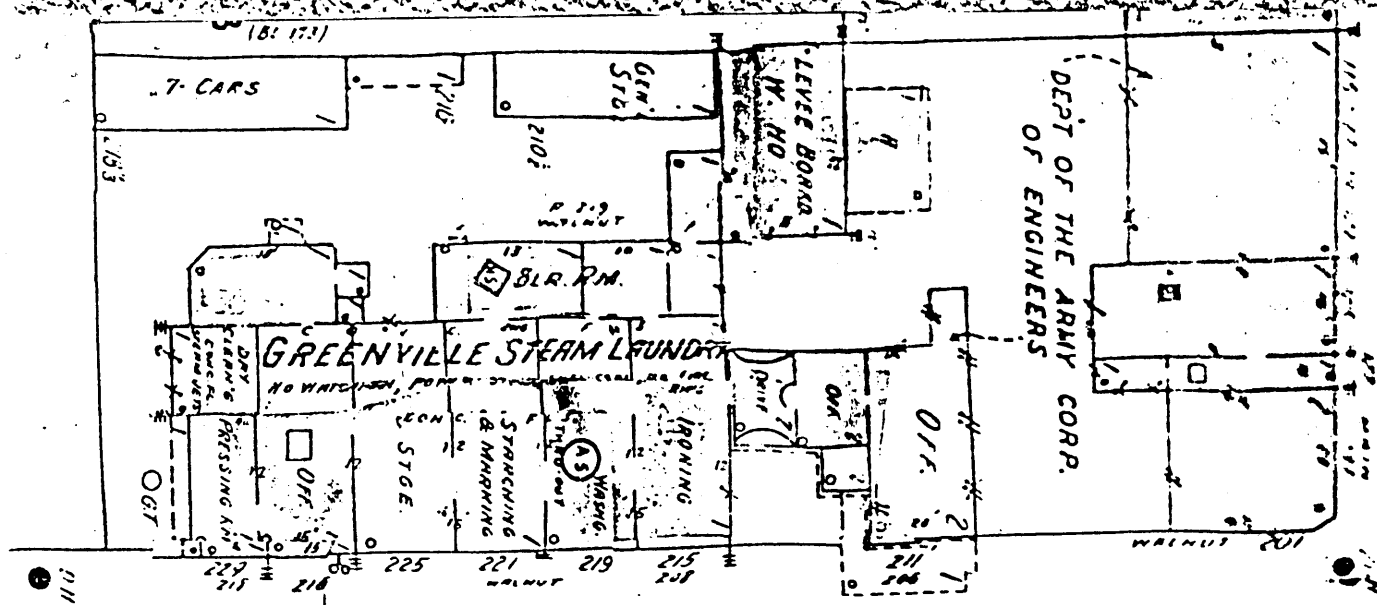
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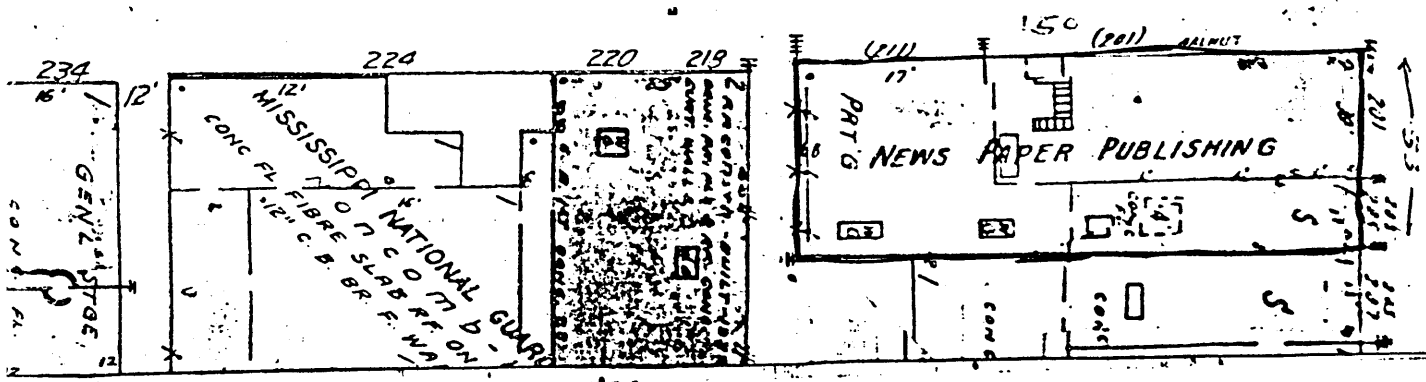
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

Lyons, Gene. "The Other Carters". New York Times Magazine. Sept. 18, 1977/Section 6.

Milner, Jay. "Hodding Carter: A Profile in Courage". Nieman Reports. Dec., 1970.



S. WALNUT



Greenville, MS.

Beginning at the Northwestern corner of Lot 16 of said Reserve Addition and run in a southwesterly direction along the western boundary of said Lot 16 150 feet to a point which is the Southeasterly corner of the building located on the lands hereby described; thence run in an Easterly direction along a line perpendicular to said western boundary line a distance of 53 feet to a point; thence run in a Northeasterly direction along a line parallel to the western boundary line of said Lot 16 a distance of 150 feet to the North boundary of said Lot 16; thence run in a Westerly direction along the North boundary of said Lot 16 a distance of 53 feet to the point of beginning.



OLD DELTA DEMOCRAT TIMES BUILDING #1

201-203 Main Street 4-5-80

Greenville, Ms. 38701

Credit: Clinton I. Bagley

*Wash, D.C.*

Box 1332

Greenville, Ms. 38701

looking southeast at facade ( north ) &  
west elevations.

*1 of 2* JUN 5 1980



OLD DELTA DEMOCRAT TIMES BUILDING # 2  
201-203 Main Street *Washington Co.*  
Greenville, Ms. 38701 4-5-80

Credit: Clinton I. Bagley JUN 5 1980  
Box 1332  
Greenville, Ms. 38701

Looking east at rearstair hall entrance,  
located at southwest corner of original  
building. 2002