

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**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

Pleasant Reed House

AND/OR COMMON

Reed House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

928 Elmer Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Biloxi

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

028

Harrison

147

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumnae Chapter

Delta Sigma Theta

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 4110, West Biloxi Station

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Biloxi

VICINITY OF

Mississippi 39531

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk

Harrison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

101 East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Biloxi

Mississippi 39530

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Biloxi Preservation Office

P. O. Box W

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Biloxi

Mississippi 39530

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 Pleasant Reed House is located on a narrow mid-block lot on the east side of Elmer Street in a quiet residential neighborhood of modest single-story frame dwellings. The facade or western elevation of the hip-roof "shotgun" form house is sheltered by a nicely detailed inset gallery supported by square posts. A robustly turned spool frieze carried by diminutive flat sawn corner brackets runs beneath the plain cornice board and continuous boxed eaves. The facade is set in German siding, while the other elevations are sheathed with clapboards. Six-over-six sash windows are original to the house, and the front-entrance bay contains a narrow two-light transom above a four-panel door with glazed upper panels.

About 1894, a one-and-one-half-story clapboarded rear ell was added to the original house. Small six-light single-sash windows illuminate the loft on the west and south elevations. An additional room and shed-roof porch were later added to the ell, but subsequently were removed.

The interior of the simply detailed three-room original portion of the house features a modified side-hall plan, with two small rear chambers flanked by a narrow hall opening from the rear of the larger front room. Plain architrave boards surround the windows and four-panel doors, and one simple post-and-lintel style mantel survives in the front room, although the chimney itself has been removed. Walls and ceilings are covered with vertical siding. The rear ell accommodates a large kitchen and a side hall housing the open-stringer winder staircase leading to the open loft chamber. Plumbing and electricity were never installed in the house.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Pleasant Reed

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pleasant Reed House is significant as a vernacular architectural form and as a symbol of the contribution made by the local black community to the history of Biloxi. Built by Pleasant Reed and owned and occupied by members of the Reed family ever since, the Pleasant Reed House illuminates a dimension of Afro-American history heretofore largely unaddressed in Mississippi. It is the principal surviving evidence of the saga of a newly freed black family of thirteen members who embraced the concept of "I am somebody: with proper training, desire to achieve, and opportunity, I can do" that was vital to their participation in the American establishment.

Pleasant Reed was the fourth son born (in 1854) to Benjamin and Charlotte Reed, slaves of John B. Reed at Enon on the Leaf River, Perry County, Mississippi. George Reed, Sr., four years older than his brother Pleasant, arrived on the Mississippi coast at the age of nineteen in 1869. Other members of the Benjamin Reed family followed and initiated the activities that firmly established their roots in the Biloxi community. The population of the city at the time of George Reed, Sr.'s, arrival was about 3,000 persons. Two years later, in 1871, the tax rolls for Harrison County listed three identifiable members of the Reed family as paying taxes. Benjamin Reed, the patriarch, was listed as owning "4 cattle paid Poll Taxes." By the time of Benjamin Reed's death in 1908, the Reed family was the largest black family in Biloxi, and its members had become involved in the early development of every segment of local industry considered basic to the area economy: fishing, lumber milling, railroading, tourism, and fuel supply (charcoal).

The Reed family home, the Pleasant Reed House, was completed in its original form around 1887. A remarkably complete example of the picturesquely detailed "shotgun" house that became one of the dominant residential types on the Mississippi coast during the late nineteenth century, the structure is unusual because of its modified side-hall plan. A partially completed inventory of the contents of the house has revealed records dating back to 1884, including receipts for hours of road work performed by members of the Pleasant Reed family in lieu of tax payment. Grocery purchases, rent receipts, doctors' bills, and other documentation of purchase or agreement were also carefully preserved by the family. Articles of period furniture and other appurtenances remain intact and in remarkably well-preserved condition. Unfortunately, several valuable pieces have fallen into the hands of vandals and collectors, but efforts are being made to retrieve them.

Local plans for the restoration of the Pleasant Reed House through the use of community development block grant funds have been initiated by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biloxi. The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey. 1976.

Biloxi (Mississippi) Daily Herald. January 27, 1908.

Harrison County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 27:298.

Reed, Felicie. Letter to Rosa L. Martin, Biloxi, October 18, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 3,1,8,9,4,0 | 3,3,6,4,8,2,0

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Pleasant Reed House at 928 Elmer Street is bounded on the north and south by residential structures, on the east by a vacant lot, and on the west by Elmer Street.

The property consists of a 50 foot by 184 foot lot on the east side of Elmer Street,

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

Mary McCahon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

November, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 571

(601) 354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jackson

Mississippi 39205

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 10, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

PIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

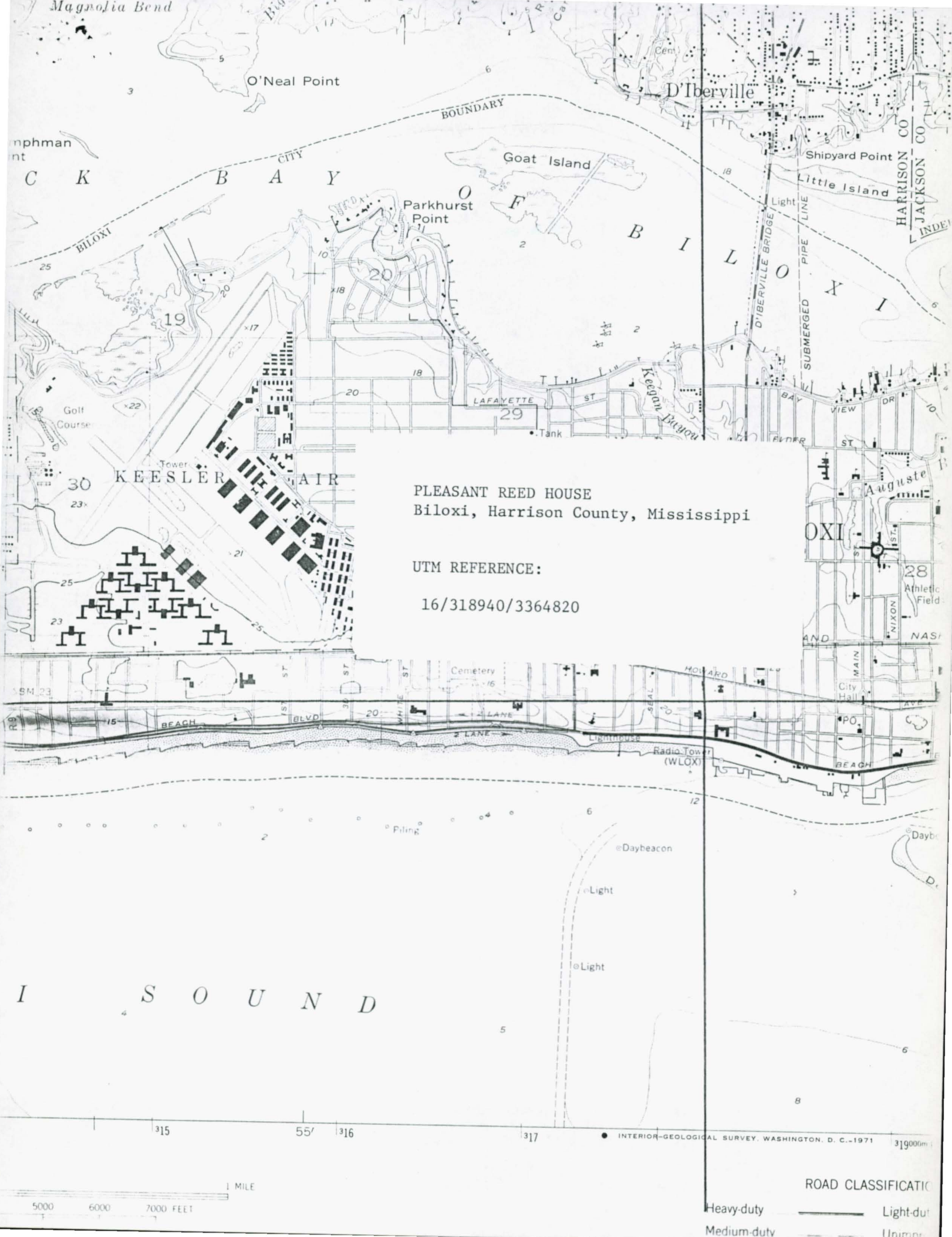
ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States. Bureau of the Census. Slave Schedule. Perry County,
Mississippi. 1850

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

115 feet north of the northeast corner of Elmer and Division streets.



PLEASANT REED HOUSE
 Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCE:
 16/318940/3364820

mphman
 nt

C K

B A Y

B I L O X I

I S O U N D

315 55' 316 317 31900m

1 MILE
 5000 6000 7000 FEET

● INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.-1971

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty
 Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: Amendment Page: 1

Reed, Pleasant, House
Harrison County, Mississippi

**Amendment for Purposes of Delisting Property From The National Register of Historic
Places**

The Reed, Pleasant, House, Harrison County, Mississippi was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 11 January 1979. Since that date, the house has lost the qualities which originally caused it to be listed. The house was destroyed on August 29, 2005 by Hurricane Katrina and should be delisted.

Resource
Reed, Pleasant, House

Address
928 Elmer Street
Biloxi, MS

Section 11:

Form Prepared By:

William M. Gatlin, Architectural Historian
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6940

Date: February 8, 2008

Section 2:

Certification



State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 5-19-2008



PLEASANT REED HOUSE

047-BLX-0238

Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

May, 1978

Facade (west elevation) and south elevation
of original portion of house. Taken from
the southwest.

Photo 1 of 3.



PLEASANT REED HOUSE

Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

May, 1978

Facade (west elevation) and north elevation
of original portion of house, and north
elevation of ca. 1894 addition. Taken
from the northwest.

Photo 2 of 3



PLEASANT REED HOUSE

Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

May, 1978

Rear (east elevation) of ca. 1894 addition.

Taken from the east.

Photo 3 of 3