National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

Form 10-900a). Type all entries.					10000		
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6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) Domestic: single dwelling	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions Domestic: single dwelling			
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)			
	foundationbrick			
Queen Anne Late Victorian Craftsman/Bungalow	walls wood/weatherboard, brick			
Greek Revival	roof composition shingles			
Other: Late 19th/early 20th century vernacular	other			

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Commerce Street District/Description

The Commerce Street District begins at the intersection of Commerce and Tournament, across from the Henley House, and follows the angles of Commerce to Brame Avenue. Boundaries are property lines of nominated properties on Tournament, Commerce, and Travis streets, and Brame Avenue. These boundaries are shown on the master map for the West Point Multiple Resource Area.

The Central City Historic District lies to the north. The Illinois Central (GM&O) is the boundary on the northern end of the east side, and lot lines at the rear of Cromwell Avenue at the south end. East of the district are Grove Street and Court Street. Houses on the former have generally undergone too much alteration to merit listing; houses on the latter are in the Court Street District. South of Brame Avenue, the character and quality of the housing eliminates most of it from consideration.

Commerce Street jogs just to the west of Henley House and diverges from the angle of the railroad. It makes two gradual bends before it intersects with Travis Street, then runs straight south to Brame Avenue. The curves in the street give this district a different quality from Main and South Division streets, which appear wide and open. A sense of expectation is created here because the houses "appear" as the route progresses.

Houses in the district are moderate in size, and especially in the older section, are located close to the street. All of the buildings in the district are one or one and a half stories tall. All of the homes built before the second decade of the 20th century are wood frame, though the original weatherboard exteriors of some have been altered. Most of the 20th century houses are brick or frame with brick veneer exteriors. All of the buildings in the district are residential.

By style, buildings in the district are predominantly Vernacular (either Pyramidal or Gable and Wing). Twenty eight percent of the resources are Vernacular. Other styles represented in the district are Craftsman/Bungalow, 22 percent, Victorian Vernacular, 12.5 percent, and two or fewer examples each of Free Classic, Greek Revival, Queen Anne Cottage, and Tudor Revival. Eighteen percent of the district is built in mid-20th century styles. Twenty-six of the district buildings are Contributing, six are Non-contributing. None of the buildings has been previously listed on the National Register.

8. Statement of Significance	311 31	1 3 9	ALLONS YOUR
Certifying official has considered the significance of this pro	perty in state	the state of the s	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B ZC	D		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)		□E □F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture		Period of Significance 1870 -1930	Significant Dates N/A
		Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A		Architect/Builder N/A	
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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Commerce Street District/ Significance

The Commerce Street District, just south of the Central City District, is significant as a residential expression of the middle-class prosperity produced in West Point by a combination of commerce and railroad activity.

The district is a mixed neighborhood of modest to medium sized houses which represent the tastes of the middle class workers from downtown stores and local industry. Not included in early surveys and town plats, the district developed to the south of the Henley House, a late 19th century boarding establishment included in the Central City nomination. As in other West Point neighborhoods, the older houses are generally those located nearest the town; the more recent historical styles are located on the outlying edges of the district.

Dates of significance for the district are 1870 to 1930, years when the railroads were the driving economic force and days when industrial expansion was beginning. Lots on Commerce were being platted and sold in the 1880s, according to Miss Ruth White Williams, West Point historian, whose family home was located there. Building continued along the street until the 1930s, when a neighborhood of Bungalow/Craftsman houses arose just north of Brame Avenue. At this time, although the railroad era was on the wane, industries such as Swift & Co. had moved to town and were bringing employment and money to the area.

The oldest structure in the district is the Fannie Smith house, a marvelously intact Greek Revival Cottage built in 1870 by Thomas Lee. The latest historic houses are the bungalows built near the Brame intersection. A set of modern apartments and five modern houses have been built as infill since the mid-20th century. These non-contributing and intrusive buildings represent 18 percent of district resources.

The two largest houses in the district are the Ellis house, at the corner of Travis and Commerce (601) and the Provencher house (551). The Ellis house was built between 1905 and 1910. The Provencher house appears in its present form on the 1905 Sanborn Insurance Co. map of the area.

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11. Form Prepa	red By	
name/title		
organization	Preservation Consultant	date12/16/88
	20 Lake Valley Rd.	telephone (601) 324-0410
city or town	Starkville	state MS zip code 39759

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Commerce Street District, West Point, Clay, Mississippi

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Commerce Street District/Listing

- N 320 Tournament: A modern, yellow brick veneer covered office building on the corner of Commerce and Tournament. One story, with hipped roof, off-center entry. Materials and style make this building intrusive.
- 2. C 314 Tournament: A one story, wood frame residence with Victorian Vernacular details. Exterior materials include weatherboarding and a variety of cut wooden shingles. Decorative shingles are applied in horizontal bands to the rounded gable end wing at the right of the facade. A former open porch on the left has been enclosed with weatherboard, thermal single pane windows, and an aluminum storm door.

Owner information is the house was built by a Mr. Green, from Guntown, for his son, in about 1902. This area first appears on the 1905 Sanborn, at which time the house still had an open back porch between wings.

3. C 304 Tournament: A one-story, wood frame, Vernacular pyramidal style residence. A centered, hipped roof dormer with louvered vents pierces the roof over the entry door - a wide, oval bevelled glass light in wood. The porch has wide, simple frieze bands, across the porte cochere at left and the facade. Porch supports are double, half-sized Tuscan columns on brick piers. Windows are 1/1 double hung. The house is covered with aluminum siding. Porch floor and steps are now concrete.

A two-story house is shown in this location on the 1905 Sanborn. This house appears in 1925. It is also one of the properties featured in a Chamber of Commerce booklet published to encourage immigration in 1938. (Crump, p. 22) Marginally contributing: altered.

4. C 234 Tournament: A one story, wood frame, highly intact Greek Revival Cottage built in 1870. With the exception of some additions to the rear, this house is in remarkably good original condition. It has a five bay facade, with two 6/6 double hung windows on either side of a classic entry. A heavy, round arched

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paneled wood door with Italianate detail is set in plain surrounds with three light sidelights over bevelled aprons and a multi-light transom. Other simple Greek Revival details include boxed gable returns cutwork "X" shaped balusters, and a frieze at the top of the facade. Exterior, lattice-covered walkways connecting rooms to the rear, and grooved rafters are additional surviving early details. (See photo #1.)

The house was built in 1870 for by Thomas J. Lee, according to research done by local historian Ruth White Williams. It is known now as the "Fannie Smith House" for a recently-deceased, long time resident. Pivotally contributing.

5. C 508 Commerce: A one story, wood frame, gable and wing Victorian Vernacular house with interesting surviving cutwork on porch and at roofline. House is now covered with aluminum siding, but retains its massing and simple trim: "arrowhead" drop designs on gable ends and along roofline, chamfered porch posts with molded necking and shallow brackets between, and "X" patterned balusters like those at 234 Tournament. The porch is "L" shaped and has arrowhead trim at the base of its hipped roof.

A rectangular brick section behind the main gable and wing is actually the oldest section of the house, according to the owner. Area first appears on Sanborn map in 1905 and house has present massing. Marginally contributing: altered.

6. C 509 Commerce: A one story, Vernacular/Pyramidal style house with a wood frame and a covering of vinyl siding. House has a three bay facade. Integral porch has replacement, ground level floor, concrete central steps, is supported on paired metal columns. Entry door is many small multiple lights with a four light transom. Windows are 4/1 and 3/1 double hung. A hip roofed, centered dormer with paired 4/1 windows is located over the porch.

This house has the same form on the 1925 Sanborn. Marginally contributing: altered.

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Commerce Street District, West Point, Clay, Mississippi Section number __7__ Page __4__

- 7. N 510 Commerce: A set of two story, frame with brick veneer apartment houses three sections in all, with a vast, blacktopped parking lot between and around. Built in the 1970s. Intrusive in scale and meterials.
- 8. C 513 Commerce: A one story, irregularly massed, wood frame house with vinyl siding covering likely Queen Anne Cottage details. House has projecting gable on left third of facade, a curving wrap porch across the entry and around a clipped corner to a secondary entrance. Columns are attenuated, wooden, Tuscan in detail. One window on porch retains hood molding. Most other trim details obscured by siding.

Built after 1905, the house is shown with a similar form on the 1925 Sanborn map. Marginally contributing: altered.

9. C 523 Commerce: A one story, wood frame, weatherboard covered house with surviving Victorian Vernacular detail. Facade is now two bay, one window having been removed to the right of the central door. A shed porch across the facade and around the southeast corner has one remaining turned post with decorative cutwork bracket, replacement square box columns with slab capitals and bases. Gable roof projections on front and side roofs have pointed arch louvered vent details and cutwork gable end trim. A one light transom is located over the multi-light entry door.

House built believed in 1888 for the Barr family. Area first appears on Sanborn map in 1905, when this house is the only one showing on the 500 block.

10. C 535 Commerce: A one story, wood frame house, much altered, with weatherboard exterior. Facade is now three irregular bays. Entry door is hollow core with two light transom. Porch had exposed rafters, hollow, square posts.

Earlier forms of this or predecessor houses appear on Sanborn maps, 1905-1925. Marginally contributing: altered.

11. C 536 Commerce: A one story, regularly massed, Vernacu-

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lar/Pyramidal style house with integral front gallery on boxed half posts and brick piers. Facade is three bay, with 1/1 double hung windows flanking a single leaf, one light and wood door and single light transom. Wide "drop" or "apron" between roofline and column tops has decorative bands of sawtooth and plain shingles in horizontal bands with vertical markers over columns.

House has present form on 1925 Sanborn map.

12. C 543 Commerce: A one story, National Folk/Gable and Wing house with wood frame and steel exterior siding. Few decorative details are left on the facade, which has a projecting gable on the left third and a shed porch across the right two-thirds. Windows on the facade are 3/1 double hung. The entry door is single leaf wood with one light and a single light transom in a plain surround. Gable end eaves are boxed and finished with a fascia board.

Shown on the 1925 Sanborn in form similar to present. The current owner added the steel siding in the 1960s. He also made alterations to the rear wing. Marginally contributing: altered.

13. C 546 Commerce: A one story, frame, symmetrically massed Vernacular/Pyramidal house covered with drop siding. The integral front gallery is open on the left two thirds, screened on the right. Porch posts are square, hollow, have molded capitals and bases. A hip roofed dormer is centered on the front roof plain. The entry door is off-center, a single leaf, applied carving wood and one light door, under a one light transom. Windows are 1/1 double hung.

1925 Sanborn map shows house with same form.

14. C 551 Commerce: A one and a half story, wood frame house in the Queen Anne Cottage style covered with weatherboarding. The porch wraps from a projecting left end gable projection with demi-lune attic window to a porch turret on the right. Replacement turned porch posts and simple balusters and rails support the shed and conical roofed porch. The entry door is

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multiple-light, with a single light transom. Windows are 1/1 double hung. The roof is hipped and multi-gabled. (See photo #2.)

Area first appears on Sanborn map in 1905. The house form then was similar to present, but with centered, rear, interior porch. Pivotally contributing.

15. C 559 Commerce: A one story wood frame Bungalow style house. Facade has integral porch on right half, room extension on left. Porch supports are half-sized wooden, on brick piers near entry, square, battered brick at right end. Windows on facade are 4/1 double hung. Four light fixed windows and louvered vents are located in the attic space. Knee braces decorate under roofline. A shed roofed enclosed porch has been added across the rear elevation.

House first appears on 1925 Sanborn map.

16. C 567 Commerce: A one story, wood frame house in the Vernacular/Gable and Wing form, with stucco covering. A projecting gable roofed wing on the right of the facade meets with a flat roofed gallery on boxed half columns on the left. Columns are set on stuccoed brick piers connected by a wide stock lumber balus trade. The entry is a multi-light door in a surround with a four light transom and two-light sidelights over bevelled aprons. Windows are 1/1 double hung. The rear features interesting extensions and an "L" shaped lattice work porch.

First area appearance on Sanborn map is 1905, at which time, house has a similar form. Former owner, Ruth White Williams, says house is created from two old three-room houses brought in and joined. House was put together in 1883, soon after neighborhood lots were platted. 20th century additions are rear gables, large room across back, stucco exterior, metal awnings on porch.

17. C 419 Travis: A one story, Craftsman style, wood frame house, symmetrically massed. Full length front porch on Tuscan half columns and brick piers. Craftsman details include exposed rafters, shed-roofed dormer

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with four fixed lights, and knee braces. Entry door has three vertical lights over sill with brackets. Windows are 1/1 double hung.

1905 Sanborn shows house with only one rear wing, one story kitchen adjacent. Craftsman details probably added in 1920s renovtion.

18. C 416 Travis: A one story, wood frame house in the Vernacular/Pyramidal style, with vinyl siding over many details. Windows on three bay facade are 4/1 double hung. The full width gallery has a concrete replacement floor and square, hollow wooden posts.

According to owner, built in 1930s by a Mr. Grisom, who worked for the gas company. On the 1925 Sanborn map, an interesting predecessor cross-plan, two story house is shown. Marginally contributing: altered.

19. C 601 Commerce: A one story, very irregularly massed, wood frame house with Free Classic details. A multigabled and hipped roof and extensive curving and angled porch on Corinthian columns are the most dramatic features of this house, built about 1910. The entry faces the corner of Travis and Commerce streets with steps leading diagonally from the corner to the door. The extensive wrapped porch has a hipped roof, wide plain frieze, wood floor, and curving section around a bay facing Commerce. The entry door is located in a clipped corner, and the angled porch repeats the line. (See photo #3.)

The house has its present form by the time of the 1925 Sanborn map. Pivotally contributing.

20. C 616 Commerce: A one story, irregularly massed, much amended, Vernacular/Gable and Wing house. The facade is three bay. Window and door surrounds are plain with molded cornices. The original gable and wing section has been altered with the addition of several weatherboarded rear extensions, now consolidated under one roof. House originally faced Travis. Only remaining decorative details are boxed gables with wide fascias.

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Known as the "Old Quinn Place," this house appears with its several adjoining outbuildings on the 1905 Sanborn map. Built ca. 1890.

21. C 619: A one story, asymmetrically massed, wood frame residence with extensive, wrapped, classical porch and other surviving Victorian Vernacular details. The facade is constructed across multiple planes on this weatherboard covered, gable-on-pyramidal-block house. Projecting gable at right of house has 4/1 double hung windows, as do other openings. Porch crosses this gable, wraps in "dog leg" configuration around receding planes of the house to the south side. Porch has simple frieze carried across on paneled, square hollow wood columns with molded capitals and bases. Entry door had single light in band of square and rectangular enclosing lights.

Owner says this is the Calvert House, but she's lived here since 1909. On 1925 Sanborn map, wrap porch is more extensive, kitchen is separate one story building attached to porch at left rear.

- 22. N 624: A one-story, wood frame, neo-Tudor Revival style house with weather board exterior. Small-paned casement windows, a facade chimney, and steep-pitched shallow gable details indicate style on this 1960s house. Facade is five bay with undercut end porch.
- 23. C 629: A one and a half story, irregularly massed, wood frame house covered with vinyl siding. The three bay facade and multiple receding planes on the porch are covered by a hipped roof which is supported by two-thirds length Roman Ionic columns on brick piers. Entry and secondary doors are single leaf, bevelled single lights over paneled bottoms. Most decorative details covered by siding.

Window in facade gable end has been altered to fixed three light aluminum sash. Windows in centered gable roofed dormer and elsewhere are 1/1 double hung. Built between 1900-1915, the house was shown in its present form on the 1925 Sanborn map. Marginally contributing: altered.

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- 24. N 630: A one story, wood frame, brick veneered ranch style house with attached frontal garage. Built in the 1960s.
- 25. N 638: A one story, wood frame, brick veneered ranch style house with multi-horizontal-paned aluminum windows. Built in the 1960s.
- 26. C 641: A one story , irregularly massed, wood frame residence in the Bungalow style. Facade details include front-facing gables on porch and main body with centered, square louvered vents, knee braces, and weatherboard siding. Porch is screened, has square brick pillars and concrete floor. Entry door is multi-light, with multi-light sidelights and transom. Facade is extended by addition of brick-veneered shed roofed enclosure at left. This room extension and one of the same size at the rear of the rectangularly massed house create a side "court-yard" entry.

House not yet showing on 1925 Sanborn map. Probably built by 1935.

27. C 704: A one story, frame and clay tile residence built in the Bungalow style. Rectangularly massed, with gable front configuration for house and porch, bungalow features include overhanging eaves, wooden porch frieze and square, hollow half columns on brick piers forming part of stuccoed balustrade. Windows are 4/1 double hung. Door is multi-light.

Built in late 1920s, along with most houses at this end of Commerce.

28. C 707: A one story, wood frame and brick veneered Tudor Revival residence, with irregular massing and multiple steep-pitched gable roofs. The entry is on a projecting front gable in a projecting side gabled screened porch. Gable ends on both and on recessed remainder of facade have false half timbering. Tudor Revival details include: massing; roof; round arched entry; door and porch motifs; cast concrete keystone and chimney details; multiple-paned casement windows; and decorative brick, front-facing chimney

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stacks.

Area not covered by 1925 Sanborn. House built 1925-35.

29. C 714: A one story, wood frame, stucco covered Bungalow style house. Centered, gable roofed porch has exposed rafter ends, shingles in the gable end, wide wooden frieze, and square brick piers. Body of house, rectangularly massed, is stucco covered, has decorative top divided light over one light windows. Porch has tiled floor, has been screened.

A metal awning has been added to the porch and a rear wing was put on in the 1950s. Owner says this and other neighborhood tile houses were built in the late 1920s and 30s by Bennie Norris, owner of a building supply store and speculative builder.

- 30. C 721: A one story, frame and clay tile residence with Bungaloiw features including exposed rafters, 3/1 double hung windows, front gable porch with wide wooden frieze, square tile pillars, and multilight entry door. Built by Bennie Norris in late 1920s, early 1930s.
- 31. N 722: A one story, wood frame, shingle covered modern "box" with three bay facade and small, projecting central gabled porch on decorative iron brackets. Bay at left of entry. Gabled wing added at left (northeast) corner. Built around 1950.
- 32. C 731: A one story, wood frame and brick veneer, Bungalow style house, probably of same vintage and origin as others on this end of Commerce. Bunglow details include exposed rafters, gable front configuration, decorative lights in door and windows, square brick porch columns with cast concrete details and integral brick balustrade. Built in late 1920s, early 1930s.

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Resources in the district are listed from north to south, with side streets listed en route and street numbers in ascending order. When photographs of the buildings are provided in the nomination, a photo reference number is listed at the end of the description of the individual resource.

District resources were dated based on architectural style, owner linterviews, tax cards in the Clay County Assessor's Office, and, where applicable, Sanborn Insurance Company maps.

The rating system used on buildings in each of the four districts in the West Point Multiple Resource Area ranks the elements individully as being either Contributing (C) or Non-contributing (N) to the district.

- -- A contributing building, site structure or object adds to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archeological values for which a property is significant because:

 a. it was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period or; b. it independently meets the National Register criteria.
- -- A non-contributing building, site, structure, or object does not add to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archeological values for which a property is significant because:

 a. it was not present during the period of significance, b. due to alterations, disturbances, additions or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is incapable of yielding important information about the period, or c. it does not independently meet the National Register criteria.

(Definitions taken from National Register Bulletin #24, p. 45.)

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Commerce Street	District, West	Point, Cla	ay, Mississippi	
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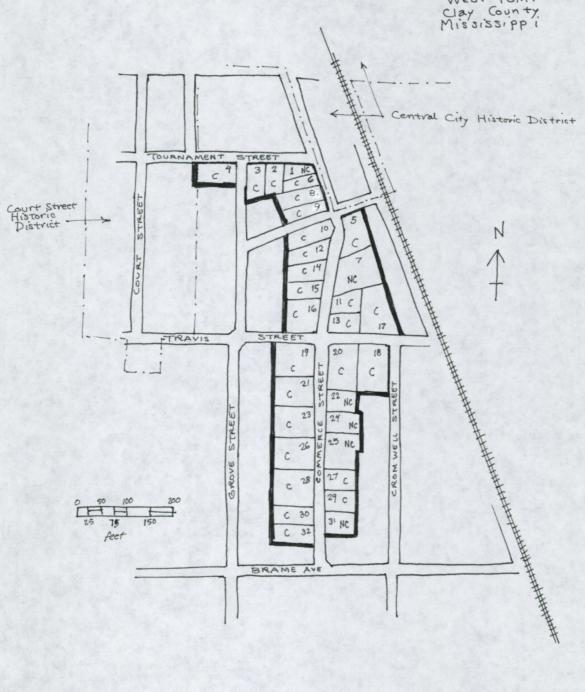
The major styles for this district are: Vernacular, 28 percent; Craftsman/Bungalow, 22 percent; and Victorian Vernacular, 12.5 percent. Other styles represented with two or fewer examples are Free Classic, Greek Revival, Tudor Revival, and Queen Anne Cottage.

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1. Name of Property			
historic name			
other names/site number C	ommerce Street Historic Dis	trict	
2. Location			
ottoot a mambot	merce St. and some adjacent		not for publication
city, town West Point			n/d vicinity
state Mississippi cod	e MS county Clay	code 2	5 zip code 39773
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Rese	ources within Property
X private	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing :
public-local	X district	26	6 buildings
public-State	site	0.	osites
public-Federal	structure	0_	0 structures
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		26	6 Total
Name of related multiple property i	isting:	Number of cont	ributing resources previously
West Point Multiple Reso	urce area		tional Register0
4. State/Federal Agency Certi	fication		
MS Department of As State or Federal agency and bureau	uty State Historic Preservat		Date
Signature of commenting or other of		gister cinteria.	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
5. National Park Service Certi			
I, hereby, certify that this property	is:		
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.			
determined eligible for the Nation Register. See continuation she			
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.	de la <u>la la l</u>		
removed from the National Reg	ister.		
other, (explain:)			
			Date of Action

Commerce Street Historic District West Point Clay County Mississippi





FAMALIE SMITH HOUSE FHOTO #1 234 TOURNAMENT WEST PUINT, COMMERCE STREET DISTRICT VIEW FROM NORTH



PAO10 #2 West Point, MS- COMMERCE ST DISTIELE

12/19/87 12/19/87



PHOTO #3

WEST POINT MS- COMMERCE ST DISTRICT
12/18/97

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

GOI COMMERCE