

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Gautier Beachfront Historic District

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Pascagoula Bay to the south, Graveline Road and the south branch of Bayou Pierre to the north and modern residences to the east and west.

City or town: Gautier State: Mississippi County: Jackson

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A    B X C    D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

*[Signature]* 3/28/13 SHPD

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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Mississippi

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒☐

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Site

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

7

Noncontributing

2

buildings

1

          

sites

          

1

structures

          

          

objects

8

3

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling           

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related,           

          

          

          

          

          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single-dwelling

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Gautier Beachfront Historic District is located on the beachfront on the southern edge of Gautier, Jackson County, Mississippi. The district is composed of nine buildings which sit on large lots facing Pascagoula Bay to the south. The lots have mature plantings of live oak and palms, native Gulf Coast species. The district is roughly bounded by the Pascagoula Bay to the south, Graveline Road and the south branch of Bayou Pierre to the north, and modern residences to the east and west.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Gautier Beachfront Historic District encompasses approximately 16 acres on the south end of Gautier, Jackson County, Mississippi. There are nine buildings built between 1893 and 2011. The houses in the district face south toward Pascagoula Bay, with the rear elevations facing the road.

All the houses sit on large lots with the houses sited on a higher terrace that gradually recedes toward the south and the water. The lots generally have mature oaks spread throughout the property as well as long-established landscape plantings.

The Gautier Beachfront Historic District is partially bounded by water on two sides. Almost all the resources have access to the Pascagoula Bay, most with private quays. The east portion of the district is partially located on a peninsula created by the south branch of Bayou Pierre and Pascagoula Bay.

There are a few local roads in the Gautier Beachfront Historic District. The primary access from the rest of the community is along Graveline Road, which runs in a roughly east-west direction through the southern area of Gautier. The road forms the northern boundary in the west portion of the district. The lot for Twelve Oaks is bounded on the north by Graveline Road and is accessed by a long private drive that intersects with Graveline Road. The other access to the district is Wind Drift Lane, which runs south off Graveline Road and dead ends in the district. A small east-west street named Italian Isle Street runs along the south branch of Bayou Pierre and becomes Bay Point Place further to the east, outside the boundaries of the district.

All of the resources in the district are residences or dependencies. All were built as residences, with the exception of the L&N Depot, which was Gautier's railroad depot for many years. However, after it was moved to its current location, it was rehabilitated for residential use. All the historic houses in the district are well-maintained and exhibit a high-degree of integrity, despite suffering damage from hurricanes over the years. The surviving houses are exemplars of coastal vernacular design rather than of any particular academic style.

Twelve Oaks (Inv 1a) (PHOTO 1), also known as the Henry and Laura Gautier House, is perhaps the grandest house in the district. Built c. 1893, the house sits on a large lot in a pastoral setting. The one-and one-half story frame residence has a hip roof with an intersecting front cross gable.

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There is a wrap-around porch on the south elevation, facing Pascagoula Bay. Windows are full-height with 2/4 double hung sashes. The front door has a single light bounded by smaller stained glass panels. The house retains its original doors, windows, clapboard siding and decorative elements. Twelve Oaks is a very intact example of a Folk Victorian style residence. The lot is landscaped with numerous live oaks, a lawn and with well-maintained shrubbery and floral plantings. The lawn is graced by a wooden gazebo (Inv. 1b), built c. 2000.

A one-story brick guest house (Inv. 5)) was built adjacent to Twelve Oaks c. 1967. (PHOTO 5) Although it has historically been associated with Twelve Oaks, it is located on a different parcel with its own street address. The guest house has intersecting gable roofs clad in asbestos shingles. The primary elevation is south with a full-width undercut gallery supported by seven brick piers. The south elevation has six bays: paired single-leaf glazed doors with single sidelight, 1/1 metal frame window, single-leaf glazed door, and paired double-leaf glazed sliding doors.

The L&N Railroad Supervisor's House, also known as the Labrot House (Inv. 3a) (PHOTO 7), was built c. 1899 by Sylvester Labrot, the L&N Railroad Creosote Plant superintendent. It was probably moved from the grounds of the creosote plant to its current site in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The one-and one-half story frame residence has board and batten siding and an asphalt shingle hip roof. There is a wrap-around porch supported by square posts and a picketed balustrade. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the house was slightly elevated and the porch was reconstructed to match its historic appearance. The house is a fine local example of a galleried cottage.

A one-story, frame, late 19th century vernacular building with board and batten siding and hip roof sits between the Labrot house and Wind Drift Drive (Inv. 3b). The primary elevation is west. A full-width front gallery was probably screened. There is a single 6/6 wood double-hung window and a single board and batten wood door. (PHOTO 8)

The Jennie Orrell House (Inv. 2a) (PHOTO 11) was constructed in 1907 and significantly modified c. 1940. The one-and one-half story frame house is clad in asbestos shingles. There is a large second floor gable with a broad raking cornice that dominates the south elevation. A screen porch with a shed roof supported by wood posts with Tuscan capitals extends across the first floor. There is a single-leaf half-glazed door with a two-light transom and three-light sidelights. The house achieved its current appearance in the early 1940s when a large living room and entry hall were added. The Jennie Orrell House is a good local example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular building traditions, modified by Colonial Revival inspired details.

The L&N Railroad Depot (Inv. 2b) (PHOTO 12) is located on the Jennie Orrell House property and currently serves as a guest house. Originally built c. 1898, the depot was located to the northeast near the intersection of Graveline Road and the L&N Railroad. After the depot was taken out of service in 1954, it was moved to a vacant lot on Wind Drift Road within the boundaries of the Gautier Beachfront Historic District and moved to its current location in 1968.

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The exterior of the depot retains a high degree of architectural integrity, with its original board and batten siding and original windows.

The one-story frame ranch house with a hip roof Wind Drift Lane was built c. 2006, following Hurricane Katrina. (Inv. 4a) (PHOTO 6) The house and associated garage are noncontributing.

Although the modern occupation of the Gautier Beachfront Historic District dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area has a long history of human occupation. Archaeologists have identified the Wallace Site (22Ja551) located on a relatively high terrace overlooking the Pascagoula Bay. Portions of the site are in the district but the site extends beyond the district boundaries to the east and west. Archaeologists surveyed the site following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and collected Gulf Formational, Middle Woodland and Mississippian components. Shovel tests yielded artifacts, primarily Native American pottery sherds and shells, with a light scattering of historic European-American artifacts, such as olive green bottle glass, pearlware and whiteware ceramics, and iron nails suggesting occupation during the Mississippian-period, with minor evidence of a Woodland period occupation. The early historic artifacts indicate an early to mid-nineteenth century occupation predating construction of any of the existing buildings.

The landscape of the district features large lots that gradually recede toward the south where they meet Pascagoula Bay. Mature live oak trees are interspersed throughout the district with a notable line just above the shoreline and along Bayou Pierre. Ornamental plantings include azaleas, orange trees, boxwoods and palmettos. The landscape is a characteristic defining feature of the district.

### Inventory of Resources

The resources in the Gautier Beachfront Historic District are listed in the Inventory of Resources by street address. The streets are listed in alphabetical order with the street numbers in ascending order. Contributing resources are described as **C** while noncontributing resources are described as **NC**. There are no previously listed resources in the district.

<b>1a.</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>701 Graveline Road</b>	<b>c. 1896</b>	<b>Folk Victorian</b>
		<b>"Twelve Oaks"</b>		

One and one-half story frame residence with a hip roof and intersecting front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The primary elevation is south. The exterior is clad in wood lap siding. The second floor has three bays: W-W-W, each with operable louvered wood shutters. The first floor has a hip roof porch that extends across the south elevation and wraps around to the east and west. The roof is supported by bracketed turned wood posts and balustrade. The first floor has seven bays: W-W-W-W-D-W-W. The windows are full-height 2/4 wood double-hung with



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operable shutters. The door is wood with a single-light bounded by smaller stained glass panes. There is a three-light transom and sidelights with two lights over a single panel. The Gable dormers, accentuated with diamond shingles, punctuate the roof line. Brick chimneys with curved cornices are offset to the east and west. The house sits on a large lot with mature live oaks and extensive landscaping. The front lawn descends from a terrace to the Pascagoula Bay.  
PHOTO 1

**1b. NC Gazebo c. 2000**

Open garden gazebo supported by square wood posts.

**2a. C 320 Wind Drift Lane c. 1907/c. 1940 addition Vernacular Cottage  
Jennie Orrell House**

One-and one-half story residence with intersecting gable roofs clad in asphalt shingles. A lower shed roof covers a wrap-around porch. The primary elevation faces south overlooking the Pascagoula Bay. A large lawn with mature live oaks descends from a terrace to the water. The front of the upper floor is a large gable with a louvered vent in the apex. A broad raking cornice ends in short cornice returns. The siding is asbestos shingles. Two 1/1 wood double-hung windows are set in the openings with wood lintels and sills. Applied shutters flank the windows. A side gable roof of a west-projecting ell is visible. A screen porch with a shed roof extends across the entire width of the first floor. The eave line was extended in the 1970s to provide greater protection to the screened porch. Wood posts with Tuscan capitals rising from wood piers are set at nine-foot intervals and support the roof. The floor and ceiling are tongue-in-groove. The exterior wall is asbestos shingle. A single-leaf half-glazed door set in a frontispiece with a two-light transom and three-light sidelights provides access. There are three 1/1 double hung windows in simple surrounds to the west of the entry. A bay window with three 1/1 double hung windows is set to the east. A second door to the interior is offset to the east.  
PHOTO 11

**2b. C Guest House 1898  
Louisville & Nashville Railroad Depot**

One story frame railroad depot, rehabilitated for use as a guest house. The depot has intersecting gable roofs clad in asphalt shingles. The exterior is board and batten. The primary elevation is west with six bays: D-W-Three-sided Bay with 5 W-W-D-D-W. The windows are 6/6 double hung windows and the wood doors are four-panel. The windows have metal exterior storm windows and the doors have metal storm doors. PHOTO 12

**2c. C Carport 1957/1998 addition**

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One-story carport with a gable roof clad in coated tin sheets. A frame structure rests on a concrete block knee wall. There is space for three vehicles. A 1998 addition to the west houses a shop.

**3a. C 400 Wind Drift Lane c. 1899 Galleried Cottage**  
**L&N Railroad Supervisor's House/Labrot House**

One story frame residence with a hip roof clad in asphalt shingles. The exterior is board-and-batten. The primary elevation is south. There is a centered roof dormer with paired single-light windows. An undercut porch extends across the south elevation and wraps around the east and west elevations. The porch is supported by square wood posts with a picketed balustrade. There are five bays: W-W-D-W-W. The windows are floor-to-ceiling 2/4 wood double-hung. The wood door has a single-light transom and sidelights. A hip roof addition extends to the north from the rear. PHOTO 7

**3b. C Outbuilding c. 1899**

One-story, frame, late 19th century vernacular building with board and batten siding and hip roof. The primary elevation is west. A full-width front gallery was probably screened. There is a single 6/6 wood double-hung window and a single board and batten wood door. PHOTO 8

**4a. NC 421 Wind Drift Lane c. 2006**

One-story frame residence with a hip roof clad in asbestos shingles and . The house is slightly elevated with a lattice skirt. The primary elevation is south. A partial-width porch with a hip roof supported by three wood posts is offset to the east and protects paired 6/6 double hung metal windows and a multi-light single leaf door. A single 6/6 window is offset to the west. A wood wheelchair ramp rises to the porch on the west. PHOTO 6

**4b. NC Garage c. 2006**

Ones-story frame two-car garage with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

**5. C 425 Wind Drift Lane 1967**

One-story brick residence with intersecting gable roofs clad in asbestos shingles. The primary elevation is south with a full-width undercut gallery supported by seven brick piers. The south elevation has six bays: paired single-leaf glazed doors with single sidelight, 1/1 metal frame window, single-leaf glazed door, and paired double-leaf glazed sliding doors. PHOTO 5

**6. C Landscape**

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The landscape of the district features large lots that gradually recede toward the south where they meet Pascagoula Bay. Mature live oak trees are interspersed throughout the district with a notable line just above the shoreline and along Bayou Pierre. Ornamental plantings include azaleas, orange trees, boxwoods and palmettos. The landscape is a characteristic defining feature of the district. PHOTOS 2, 3, 4, 9, 10

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

☐

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B. Removed from its original location

☐

C. A birthplace or grave

☐

D. A cemetery

☐

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐

F. A commemorative property

☐

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1896-1968

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Gautier Beachfront Historic District contains a residential enclave of historic homes along Pascagoula Bay, most built by descendants of Gautier settlers. The houses, built between 1896 and 1907, are generally vernacular in style built of high quality materials and generally well maintained. The houses share certain characteristics including siting on large lots with mature shade trees and orientation toward the water. The period of significance is 1896, the date of construction of the oldest house, to 1968, when the historic L&N Depot was moved to its current location in the district, marking an end to the historic development of the district. The Gautier Beachfront Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with Community Planning and Development and Criterion C for association with Architecture.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Gautier, Mississippi, is located in southeast Mississippi in Jackson County. The city is set near the mouth of the Pascagoula River where it flows into the Pascagoula Bay. Archaeologists estimate that Native Americans lived in the area for 10,000 years.<sup>1</sup> At the time of European contact the Biloxi and Pascagoula were living in the area. The French established a settlement in 1718. The English took control in 1763, followed by the Spanish in c. 1780.<sup>2</sup> Gautier remained a sparsely settled waterfront community until the early 1900s, with its greatest growth occurring after World War II.

The earliest European settlement in Gautier came in 1800 when James White settled in White's Point. Since Pascagoula Bay was the only natural seaport on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the area became a center for shipping, with cotton, and later timber, the primary commodities. Fernando Gautier, a Louisiana native, established a timber mill on the west bank of the Pascagoula River in 1866. The completion of the New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga Railroad running from Mobile to New Orleans in 1870 contributed to the growth of Gautier's sawmill business. The operation was very successful, producing 40,000 feet of lumber by 1889.<sup>3</sup> A settlement grew up around the mill. Originally known as West Pascagoula, the Gautier name became "official" when the Louisville & Nashville Railroad established a depot in 1898 in the community. As the railroad was built across the marshy Mississippi Gulf Coast, the railroad built wooden trestles to carry the tracks. Teredo shipworms rapidly damaged the wooden trestles. The remedy was to treat the timbers with creosote under high pressure. When the L&N RR Co. acquired the line in 1881, they also acquired the creosote plant, which remained in operation by successive owners until 1983. The creosote plant employed several generations of Gautier residents.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to giving the town its name, the Gautier family was responsible for building a number of elegant homes in the community. Fernando built "The Old Place", a Greek Revival galleried cottage, c. 1867 which still stands northeast of the proposed district. His son, Henry Gautier, built two house in the proposed district, with Twelve Oaks, built c. 1896, the only surviving house.

In addition to the Gautier family, Alfred E. Lewis was also a prominent early settler of Gautier. Lewis was born in Mobile on June 28, 1812. He settled in Gautier where he operated a large plantation where he raised livestock and fruit trees. He was also a trader with commercial interests in Cuba and the West Indies. Lewis served as Jackson County sheriff for fourteen years. He was a member of the state legislature from 1850 to 1852 and served in the convention which adopted articles of secession in 1861. During the war, Lewis served as a colonel in the Live Oak

<sup>1</sup> "Gautier, Its Heart and History." *Gautier Independent*. March 19, 1992, p.4

<sup>2</sup> "Gautier," p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> "Gautier," p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> Womack, Jack, editor. "A Short History of Gautier, Mississippi."



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Rifles.<sup>5</sup> In 1845, Lewis and his wife, Anne, built their home, Oldfields (NR, 1980), on the shore of the Mississippi Sound to the west of the proposed district.

Although the modern occupation of the Gautier Beachfront Historic District dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area has a long history of human occupation. Archaeologists have identified the Wallace Site (22Ja551) located on a relatively high terrace overlooking the Pascagoula Bay. While portions of the site fall within the proposed district, the recognized boundary extends both to the east and west of the district boundary. Archaeologists from Coastal Environments surveyed the site following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and collected Gulf Formational, Middle Woodland and Mississippian components. Hurricane Katrina caused scouring to a large portion of the terrace slope exposing a shell midden and large amounts of broken pottery, with some items collected by current district property owners. Archaeologists with the Center for Archeological Studies at the University of South Alabama inspected the site on February 8 and 16, 2011 and conducted a pedestrian survey and excavated 47 shovel tests. The shovel tests revealed a black earth midden up to 70 cm deep with whole and fragmentary oyster shells recovered from nearly all shovel tests. Forty-three tests yielded artifacts, primarily Native American pottery sherds and shells, with a light scattering of historic European-American artifacts, such as olive green bottle glass, pearlware and whiteware ceramics, and iron nails. Inspection of artifacts collected by the owners indicates the site's major occupation was during the Mississippian period, with minor evidence of a Woodland period occupation. The early historic artifacts indicate an early to mid-nineteenth century occupation prior to the construction of the historic houses that exist in the district.

The Gautier Beachfront Historic District encompasses a unique pattern of development with the construction of residences built on the Pascagoula Bay south of Graveline Road, most by descendants of early Gautier settlers. The houses were all built near the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were updated over time as technology and social relationships changed. They share a common setting on large lots shaded by mature live oak trees. The houses all faced the Pascagoula Bay, with the rear elevations facing the road. Although the houses share these characteristics, each house was a unique vernacular structure that reflected the tastes of the families who lived in the homes.

The Newton Gautier House was constructed c. 1873 by Henry Gautier, Fernando Gautier's son, for his first wife Adelaide. The two-story house was a Queen Anne cottage with a steep gable roof with a prominent intersecting south-gable. The house, along with its original furnishings, remained in the family until it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.<sup>6</sup>

Henry Gautier was the oldest son of Fernando Gautier and managed the F. Gautier and Sons Sawmill for over a quarter of a century. At fourteen, Gautier joined the Confederate Army. After

<sup>5</sup> LeBatard, James Henry, ed. *The History of Jackson County, Mississippi*. Pascagoula: Jackson County Genealogical Society, 1989, p. 265.

<sup>6</sup> MDAH, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resources Inventory. Newton Gautier House, 059-GAU-0008.



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the war, Henry returned to his family home and was active in the operation of the sawmill business until 1906. A major hurricane that year uprooted the trees in Jackson County. Gautier and his brothers sold the sawmill to the L. N. Dantzler Lumber Company.

After Adelaide's death in 1893, Henry remarried and built a new home for his second wife, Laura Canty. Now known as Twelve Oaks (Inv. 1a), the one and one-half story Folk Victorian frame house has a hip roof with an intersecting front cross-gable. The hip-roof wraparound porch is supported by bracketed turned posts and balustrades. Windows are full-height 2/4 wood double-hung sash with working shutters. The wood door has a single-light bounded by stained glass panels and a three-light transom. Gable dormers, accentuated by diamond shingles, punctuate the roof line. Twelve Oaks is recognized as a rare local intact example of a late-nineteenth century Folk Victorian residence.<sup>7</sup> Twelve Oaks is the third oldest residence in Gautier and has survived eighteen hurricanes. (PHOTO 1)

The L&N Railroad Supervisor's House (Inv. 3a), also known as the Labrot House (PHOTO 7), is east of Twelve Oaks. The lot was originally owned by the Gautier family. Adelaide Gautier sold the lot to Sylvester Labrot, the L&N Railroad Creosote Works' superintendent. Labrot may have moved the house to the lot from the grounds of the creosote plant. Labrot lived in the house for about three years before selling it to the L&N Railroad, which used it as company housing for the creosote plant manager until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is the only surviving building associated with the creosote plant which played such an important role in the economic life of the community. The one-and one-half story frame residence has a hip roof and board and batten siding. It is an outstanding example of railroad-related residential construction in the area.<sup>8</sup>

Alfred Lewis and his wife, Anne, had four children, including Eugenia Pocahontas Lewis, born May 17, 1850. She married P. H. Orrell in 1873. Following Mr. Orrell's death she built a beachfront house in Gautier in c. 1907, now known as the Jennie Orrell House (Inv. 2a) (PHOTO 11). Orrell owned 75 acres on the Pascagoula Bay which she received by deed from Alfred and Anne Lewis in 1876. Jackson County tax records establish that she had a house on the site in the 1909 biennial tax rolls.<sup>9</sup>

The Orrell House (PHOTO 11), as originally built, was a one-and one-half story frame house constructed of longleaf yellow pine. The house had a steep gable roof with prominent north and south gable fronts and a large dormer on the east elevation. A porch wrapped around the south and east elevations. The Chestnut family owned the property from 1942 until 1957. The most significant change to the house during the Chestnut occupation was the addition of a large formal living room on the west side of the house. The front porch was likely expanded across the entire

<sup>7</sup> MDAH, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resources Inventory. Twelve Oaks, 059-GAU-0009.

<sup>8</sup> MDAH, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resources Inventory. L&N Supervisor's House, 059-0007.

<sup>9</sup> MDAH, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resources Inventory, Jennie Orrell House, 059-GAU-0006.



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south elevation at that time introducing Colonial Revival-inspired supports with Tuscan capitals. The Jennie Orrell House is a good local example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular building traditions, modified by Colonial Revival inspired details.

The Louisville & Nashville Railroad acquired the New Orleans, Mobile, and Chattanooga Railroad line between Mobile and New Orleans in 1881. The L&N established a station in Gautier which contributed to the growth of the community and built a depot (Inv.2b) in 1898 near the intersection of Graveline Road and Old Spanish Trail. The depot became the heart of the community, serving as the post office and telegraph office. The L&N closed the depot in 1954. In order to save the building from demolition, Newton Gautier purchased it and moved to an empty lot near his house, which was located within the boundaries of the Gautier Beachfront Historic District.<sup>10</sup> General Faye Upthegrove, then the owner of the Jennie Orrell House, moved the depot to its present site in 1968.(PHOTO 12) The current property owners, Jack and Catherine Womack, completed a sensitive rehabilitation in the mid-1990s for use as a guest house. The building retains its original doors and windows. The waiting rooms serve as bedrooms. The original ticket counter remains in place dividing the galley kitchen from the living room.<sup>11</sup> Although the depot has been moved from its original location, it retains many of the essential characteristics that define it as a railroad depot and it contributes to the setting of the Jennie Orrell House.

The resources in the district are residences or dependencies. All were built as residences, with the exception of the L&N Depot, which was Gautier's railroad depot for many years. However, after it was moved to its current location, it was rehabilitated for residential use. All the historic houses in the district are well-maintained and exhibit a high-degree of integrity, despite suffering damage from hurricanes over the years. The surviving houses are exemplars of coastal vernacular design rather than of any particular academic style.

There are no other National Register historic districts in Gautier. The Alfred E. Lewis House, also known as "Oldfields," was individually listed in 1980. There are large multi-resource historic districts in other Jackson County communities, including Moss Point, Ocean Springs, and Pascagoula. The districts which are most comparable in size and scope of resources to the Gautier Beachfront Historic District are the Shearwater Historic District and the Lovers Lane Historic District, both in Ocean Springs. The Shearwater Historic District, with ten resources, was listed in 1989 for association with the artistic accomplishments of the Walter Anderson family. The Lovers Lane Historic District, with twelve resources, was listed in 1987 as an architecturally cohesive neighborhood of vacation estates which reflected the development of Ocean Springs as a vacation community. Resources in both Shearwater and Lovers Lane were damaged by Hurricane Katrina but both appear to retain sufficient integrity to retain National Register listing.

<sup>10</sup> "The Gautier Railroad Depot is alive and well," *The Gautier Independent*, June 2, 1976.

<sup>11</sup> "92-year-old depot serves as a unique dwelling." *The Mississippi Press*, January 10, 1994.

Gautier Beachfront Historic District

Jackson County,  
Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*The Chronicle Star*

*The Gautier Independent*

LeBatard, James Henry, ed. *The History of Jackson County, Mississippi*. Pascagoula: Jackson County Historical Society, 1989.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resource Inventory.

*The Mississippi Press*.

Womack, Jack, ed. "A Short History of Gautier, Mississippi." print

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Gautier Beachfront Historic District

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Mississippi

Name of Property

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

County and State

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 16

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927    or    ☐ NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
|----------|----------|-----------|

Gautier Beachfront Historic District

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Mississippi

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2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Gautier Beachfront Historic District are shown on the Historic district map attached.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Gautier Beachfront Historic District encompasses a collection of historic houses built between 1895 and 1907 that were built by representatives of the founding families and a significant employer in the community. The houses share common settings including views to Pascagoula Bay and large landscaped lots. The boundaries reflect the historic lots associated with the houses.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: William M. Gatlin

organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

street & number: P. O. Box 571

city or town: Jackson state: MS zip code: 39205-0571

e-mail: bgatlin@mdah.state.ms.us

telephone: 601-576-6951

date: January 25 2013

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Gautier Beachfront Historic District

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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Gautier Beachfront Historic District

City or Vicinity: Gautier

County: Jackson State: MS

Photographer: William M. Gatlin, MDAH

Date Photographed: November 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 12. 701 Graveline Road, "Twelve Oaks," camera facing northwest
- 2 of 12. 701 Graveline Road, landscape, camera facing south
- 3 of 12. 701 Graveline Road, landscape, camera facing southeast
- 4 of 12. From 701 Graveline Road, landscape, camera facing east
- 5 of 12. 425 Wind Drift Lane, camera facing northwest
- 6 of 12. 421 Wind Drift Lane, camera facing north
- 7 of 12. 400 Wind Drift Lane, "L&N Supervisors House, Labrot House," camera facing northeast
- 8 of 12. 400 Wind Drift Lane, outbuilding, camera facing northeast
- 9 of 12. 320 Wind Drift Lane, landscape, camera facing east
- 10 of 12. From 320 Wind Drift Lane, landscape, camera facing west

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- 11 of 12. 320 Wind Drift Lane, "Jennie Orrell House," camera facing northwest  
12 of 12. 320 Wind Drift Lane, "L&N Depot," camera facing east

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Gautier Beachfront Historic District

Jackson County,  
Mississippi

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Name of Property

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County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Gautier Beachfront Historic District
Name of Property
Jackson County, Mississippi
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum:

- |              |           |            |           |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Latitude: | 30.345722 | Longitude: | 88.620278 |
| 2. Latitude: | 30.392778 | Longitude: | 88.623333 |
| 3. Latitude: | 30.391111 | Longitude: | 88.626111 |
| 4. Latitude: | 30.371944 | Longitude: | 88.638611 |
| 5. Latitude: | 30.374444 | Longitude: | 88.634444 |







MS - Jackson County - Gauthier Beachfront HD - 2000



MS - Jackson County - Gauthier Beachfront HD - 0002





MS - Jackson County - Gauthier Beachfront HD - 0003





MS - Jackson County - Gaultier Beachfront HD, 0004



MS - Jackson County - Gauchir Beachfront BD - 0005



1K Jackson County Gauthier Beachfront HD-0006





MS - Jackson County - Gaudier Beachfront HD - 0007





ME Jackson County - Gardiner Beachfront HD-00008



MS

Jackson County -

Gautier Beachfront HD - 0009



MS - Jackson County - Gauchier Beachfront HD - 0010







MS - Jackson County - Gunter Beachfront HD - all



MS - 1 sm County Gander Backfront HD-0012