

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH0678040
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 14 1979

MAY 23 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Blue Mountain College Historic District

LOCATION MS 15

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway 15

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Blue Mountain

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Tippah

CODE

139

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT

___ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS☒ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

☒ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mississippi Baptist Convention

c/o Dr. Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 530

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39205

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Tippah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Ripley

STATE

Mississippi 38663

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1977

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE 14

The Blue Mountain College Historic District includes fourteen buildings on the campus of the Baptist college for women in northeast Mississippi giving the district its name, and occupies an approximately forty-acre tract elevated from the main road. Although a variety of architectural styles from the turn-of-the-century down to the present are represented, the district nonetheless exhibits considerable visual cohesiveness. The majority of buildings are of brick construction and are well placed in their environment, which consists of undulating terrain rising up the slope of Blue Mountain, a physical feature to which buildings are adapted by construction of high basements and a varying number of stories. Contributing to the cohesiveness of the district are the orientation of the buildings, arrayed in a semicircle around the administration building, and the curving pathways which serve to link the buildings. Photographs from the 1920s reveal that the walkways were once roofed, and that a covered walkway connected the second floors of two buildings. Four brick gateways define the south and west borders of the district, while a road and high ridge mark district boundaries on the east and north. Since only one intrusion exists in the district, the visual integrity of the district may be said to be preserved.

Buildings Located within the District

1. Lawrence T. Lowrey Administration Building. 1928. Colonial Revival. J. M. Spain, architect. Three-story twenty-seven-by-seven-bay brick building with a central projecting section and projecting end bays. Arcaded entrance beneath portico.
2. Pascal Student Union. 1970. Modern, articulated in classical idiom. Jernigan, Hawkins, and Harrison, architects. One-story six-by-two-bay brick building with hip roof and undercut gallery supported by brick piers. Trabeated window and door openings filled with plate glass occupy most of the wall space. (Intrusion).
3. Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church. 1908. Eclectic, some Colonial Revival features. Two-story seven-by-seven-bay brick structure with pyramidal hip roof, gable-roofed projecting central section, and four-story square tower with pinacled corners. Segmental-arched windows.
4. Stewart House. 1946. Colonial Revival features. One-and-a-half-story four-by-two-bay brick cottage with carport. Narrow shutters with colonial-type candle-in-holder motif in raised design.
5. Garrett Hall of Fine Arts. 1950. Colonial Revival details. Dudley C. White, architect. One-story nine-by-twelve bay brick building constructed around an auditorium. Corner bays project. Entrance recessed in a projecting central-entrance bay. Paneled reveal.
6. Guyton Library. 1957. Some Prairie School features. Walter R. Nelson, architect. One-story five-by-six-bay brick building with projecting central entrance articulated by large concrete squares. Two small glass-block windows flank entrance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blue Mountain College Historic District in northeast Mississippi encompasses the campus of the Baptist four-year school from which the district takes its name, the oldest college for women in the state. Buildings within the district record changing styles in institutional architecture as well as the evolution of the use of the campus from 1900 to 1970. The majority of buildings are architect designed and illustrate various trends in American architecture: eclecticism of the turn of the century, the popularity of the Colonial Revival style, in which buildings continued to be constructed on the campus through the 1940s, and the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, evident as late as 1960. Perhaps even more important is the visual continuity of the district, achieved through use of 1920s streetlamps, curved pathways to connect buildings (added 1912, 1922), and brick gateways to enclose the area (added 1930). Contributing to the cohesiveness of the district is the excellent situation of buildings in the natural environment and the use of compatible massing, materials, and details to blend later and earlier buildings.

Blue Mountain College was founded in 1873 by Mark Perrin Lowrey, Baptist preacher and Civil War general, who along with his two daughters composed the faculty of what was then known as Blue Mountain Female Institute. Leadership of the college remained in the Lowrey family until 1960, although ownership of the college was transferred to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1918. Lowrey's oldest daughter, Modena Lowrey Berry, who served as principal of the college for over sixty years, was the second woman in state history named to the Mississippi Hall of Fame.

The earliest buildings now standing on the campus are representative of the second period of building construction in the history of the college and reflect by their fireproof brick construction the prosperity and status of Blue Mountain College at the turn of the century. (Most of the early buildings on the campus, of frame construction, had been destroyed by fires in 1900 and 1928.) Although architects of the earliest brick buildings are unknown, they likely had some association with the college, as have the architects of later buildings. J. M. Spain, of Jackson, Mississippi, who designed the administration building in 1928, was a friend of Dr. Lawrence T. Lowrey, then president of the college. Dudley C. White, who designed Garrett Fine Arts Building (1950) was the son of Mary Ella Hearn White, alumna of Blue Mountain College who donated the final \$4,000 needed to construct the administration building. (Accreditation of the college hinged on the construction of a new administration building.) Walter R. Nelson, Memphis architect who designed six buildings on the campus between 1928 and 1962, was reared at Blue Mountain by Mrs. James Buchanan, a teacher at the college. Others have contributed smaller material improvements, which also serve as tangible reminders of the history of the college. A marble fountain between the administration building and Lowrey Hall was donated in 1922 by the Eumonian literary society, whose members were earlier responsible for the installation of electric lights in Lowrey Memorial Church. Another literary society, the Euzalian, donated

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Black, Mary Gardner. A History of Blue Mountain College Alumnae Association. No facts of publication [1950?]. Copy in the President's Office, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.

Blue Mountain College Bulletin: 1977-1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 40 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Blue Mountain, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

DA 1,6 31,39,5,0 3838 3,83,97,5,0

A 1,6 31,43,0,0 150 3,83,87,5,0

ZONE EASTING 150 NORTHING

ZONE EASTING 250 NORTHING

BA 1,6 31,42,0,0 3,83,82,5,0

CA 1,6 31,36,5,0 3,83,82,5,0

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The district, outlined in red on the accompanying sketch map, includes the main portion of the campus bounded on the south by Main St. and on the west by Mountain Ln. On the east, the boundary follows the campus drive first in a northerly direction and then west behind Lowrey Hall, moving east to include Sumrall House where it

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

Adele Cramer, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

December 12, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 7, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5-23-79

ATTEST:

Chief of the National Register

DATE

5/22/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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4 - OWNER OF PROPERTY

Congregation of Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church
c/o Dr. E. H. Fisher, Chairman, Board of Deacons
Main Street
Blue Mountain, Mississippi 38610

7 - DESCRIPTION

7. Whitfield Hall. 1928. Colonial Revival. Walter R. Nelson, architect. Three-story thirteen-by-three-bay brick building with central entrance and portico. Projecting end bays. Quoined corners. Door surround with side lights and semielliptical fanlight
8. Whitfield Dining Hall. 1928. Colonial Revival. Walter R. Nelson, architect. Two-story eight-by-four-bay brick building constructed on a cruciform plan with a central entrance and a gallery supported on square paneled columns. Columns salvaged from original administration building, to which they were added in 1912.
9. Hearn Jennings Dormitory. 1903, addition 1923. Eclectic, with Colonial Revival interior details. Two-story seven-by-three-bay brick building with projecting gable-topped polygonal third and fifth bays with hinged brick corners. Hip roof and square cupola; segmental-arched windows; central entrance.
10. Broach Hall. 1940. Colonial Revival. Leake and Goodlett, contractors. Two-story brick building constructed on an H-plan. Gabled roof with gabled dormers. Squared columns, central entrance.
11. Carpenter Home. 1949. Robert Scott, contractor. One-and-a-half-story three-by-three-bay brick cottage with central entrance and gabled entrance porch. Entrance flanked by shutters.
12. Armstrong Home. 1939. Colonial Revival. Walter R. Nelson, architect. Two-and-a-half-story five-by-two-bay brick house with side wings. Two-story projecting gallery topped by balustrade. Central entrance with side lights and semielliptical fanlight. Brick guesthouse-garage located just west of house.
13. Lowrey Hall. 1900. Eclectic. Three-story thirteen-by-four-bay brick building with two projecting towers topped with mansard roofs. Corbeled cornice; square cupola; segmental-arch windows.
14. Sumrall House. Ca. 1915. Colonial Revival. One-and-a-half-story three-by-four-bay hip-roofed cottage with high basement. Irregular plan with projecting bays on rear and sides. Bay on west side terminates in a jerkinhead roof; others in gabled roofs. Cresting with antefixae on roof ridges. Central entrance with side lights and transom.

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

the marble slab which adorns the front of the church, and erected a brick gateway at the main entrance to the college. These landscape features, together with the complex of buildings on the campus, form a unique atmosphere which, despite the existence of modern structures, conveys a pervasive sense of the history of Blue Mountain College.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buchanan, Jr., James, former business administrator of Blue Mountain College. Interviewed by Adele Cramer, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Blue Mountain, Miss., Dec. 6, 1978.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Tippah County. Blue Mountain College.

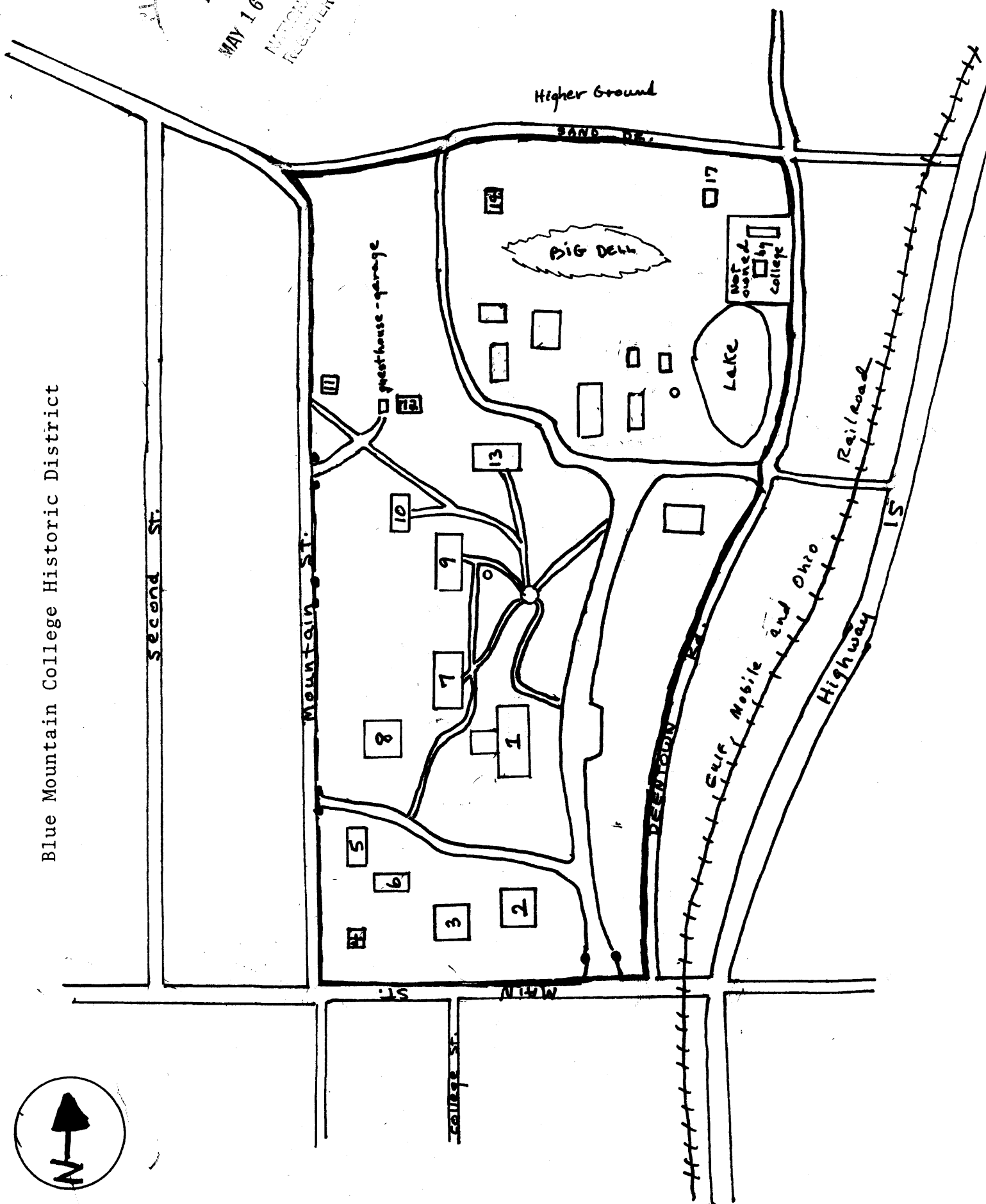
Mississippi State Building Commission, Jackson. Physical Facilities: Institutions of Higher Learning. 1969.

Sumrall, Robbie Neal. A Light on the Hill: A History of Blue Mountain College. Blue Mountain, Miss.: privately printed, 1947.

10- VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

continues to Sand Road and then moves north along Sand Road to meet Mountain Street.

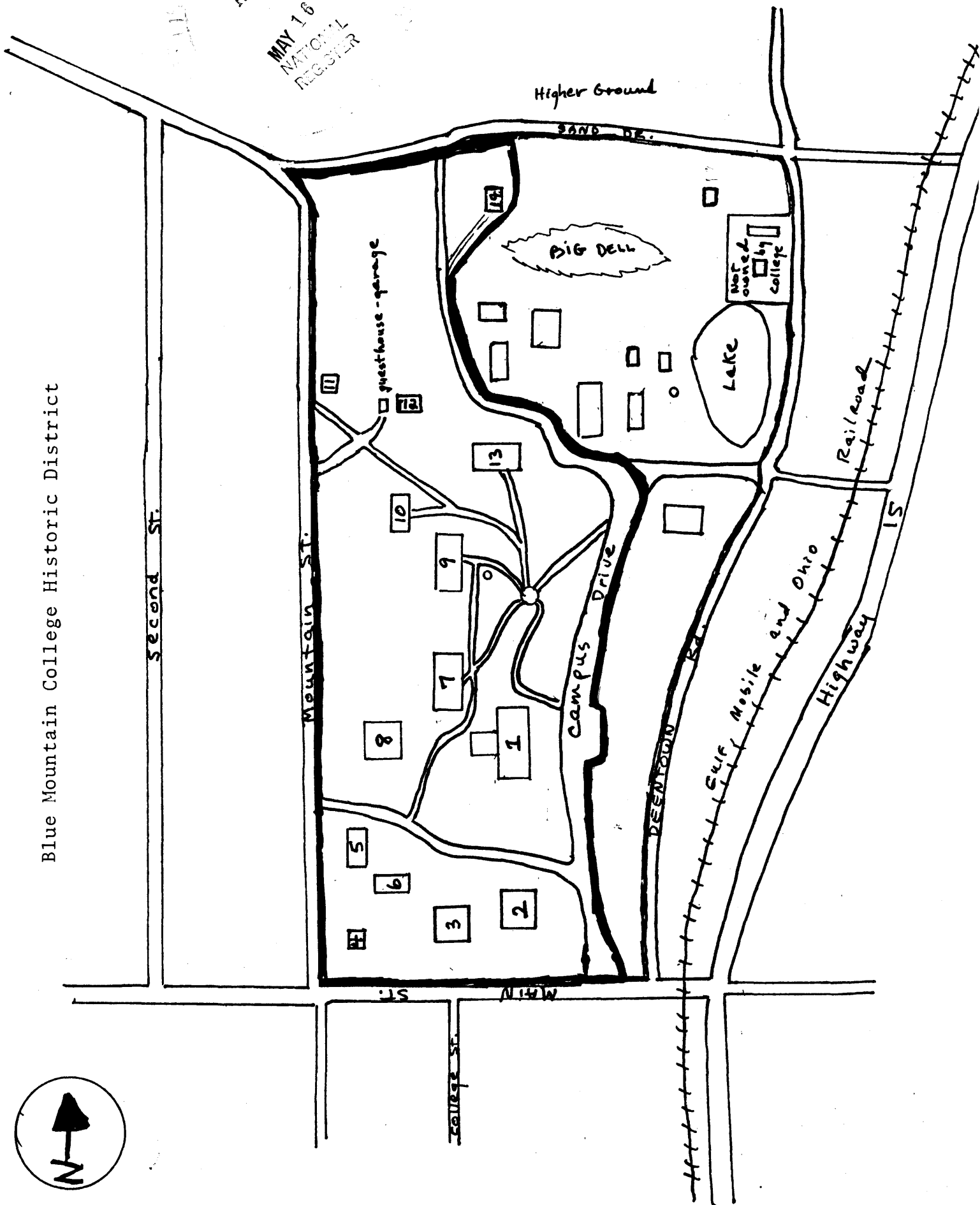
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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Tippah County, Mississippi

Adele Cramer

MAY 23 1979

September, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Main gates to Blue Mountain College from Main

St. onto campus; looking north.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Tippah County, Mississippi
Adele Cramer
September, 1978
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Lowrey Hall; looking northwest.
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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Lowrey Hall; looking northwest.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Armstrong House (President's House); looking
northwest.

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Broach Hall; looking west.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Fountain facing Hearn-Jennings dormitory;

looking east.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Hearn-Jennings Dormitory; looking west.

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Whitfield Dormitory; looking northwest.

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Whitfield Dining Hall; looking northeast.

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Guyton Library and Garrett Fine Arts Center;

looking southwest.

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Guyton Library; looking southwest.

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Newel post, hallway of Lowrey Memorial Baptist
Church.

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Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church; looking
southwest.

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Pascal Student Union; looking west.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Tippah County, Mississippi

Adele Cramer

MAY 23 1979

September, 1978

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Entrance hall of Lawrence T. Lowrey Administration Building; looking northwest toward auditorium.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Tippah County, Mississippi

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September, 1978

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Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Main entrance hall of Lawrence T. Lowrey

Administration Building; looking northeast.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Tippah County, Mississippi

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September, 1978

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Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Lawrence T. Lowrey Administration Building

front entrance; looking west.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Tippah County, Mississippi

MAY 23 1979

Adele Cramer

September, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Lawrence T. Lowrey Administration Building;

looking west.

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