

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

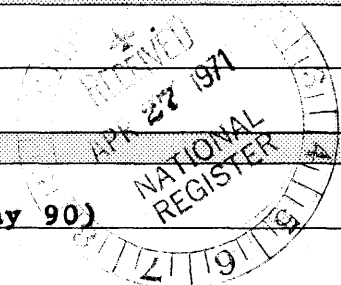
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mississippi

COUNTY:
Harrison

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.9.28.0010	9/3/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Jefferson Davis Shrine

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Beauvoir

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 West Beach Boulevard (U. S. Highway 90)

CITY OR TOWN:
Biloxi

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	39531	Harrison	047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 1055

CITY OR TOWN:
Jackson

STATE:	CODE
Mississippi	39205 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Chancery Clerk, Harrison County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
101 East Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Biloxi

STATE	CODE
Mississippi	39530 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:
Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Harrison
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.9.28.0010
DATE: 9/3/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

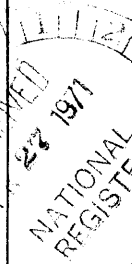
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Beauvoir is an example of the "raised cottage," with a residential story supported on 9-foot brick pillars above a full basement. In the 19th century, the latticed basement was unfinished except for a small room bricked off and used for storage of meat and wine. A furnace has been installed in this area and the remainder of the basement now houses a museum of Davis and Confederate memorabilia.

A broad flight of steps flanked by a balustrade of octagonal-shaped balusters rises to the veranda, which extends across the façade and halfway around each side elevation. Square wooden columns are aligned above the basement pillars and support a continuation of the balustrade at their base. Above the Doric capitals is a broad frieze, unadorned except for recessed rectangular paneling in the soffit similar to that in the shafts of the columns. A dentiled cornice runs beneath the eaves of the hipped roof, and there are six chimneys, symmetrically placed. The Greek Revival impact of the house is restated in the Doric pilasters and dentiled cornices of the doorway and the floor-length windows. The latter are tripled-sashed, six lights to the sash, and flanked by 3-part wooden shutters. The glass in the sidelights, transom, and double doors is opaque, with a leaf and berry pattern in clear glass. The ceiling of the veranda and the exterior of the main block, down to the molded baseboard, are plastered, while the rear wings are covered with wooden siding.

The floor plan of Beauvoir was evidently designed to take advantage of natural ventilation provided by the gulf winds. A wide hall bisects the central block of four rooms (front and rear parlors on the west; Winnie Davis and Margaret Davis Hayes memorial bedrooms on the east). Four rear rooms are off-set from the main block, two on each side (Jefferson Davis and Varina Howell Davis memorial bedrooms on the west; dining room and pantry on the east). All eight rooms open onto the front or rear verandas, and in some instances onto both. Furnishings are those used by the Davis family, and the designation of rooms is as it was in their occupancy. The room to the rear of the present dining room was apparently a serving room to which food was brought from the kitchen in the rear yard (it no longer exists).

The outstanding feature of the Beauvoir interior is the frescoed walls and ceilings of the hall and parlors. A profusion of rococo themes--shells, garlands of fruits and flowers, mythological figures--is rendered in a rainbow of soft colors such as mauve, gray, green and ivory. The frescoes have been retouched only once in the nearly 120-year history of the house, during a limited restoration of the exterior and interior in 1954 by Mr. Bowman Brodnax, contractor, of Biloxi. The walls



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

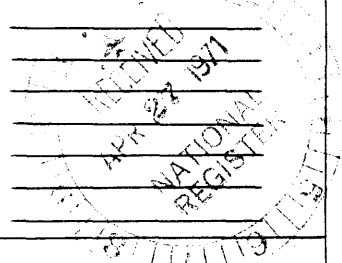
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **ca. 1852**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beauvoir was the home of Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) during the last twelve years of his life. A graduate of West Point and a veteran of the Mexican War, Davis represented Mississippi in the U. S. House of Representatives and the Senate. He was Secretary of War, 1853-1857, in the administration of Franklin Pierce and President of the Confederacy, 1861-1865.

In 1877, after a decade of travel in the United States and Europe following his release from federal imprisonment, Davis rented the east cottage at Beauvoir from Mrs. Sarah Anne Ellis Dorsey, widow of Samuel W. Dorsey, a Louisiana planter. Mrs. Dorsey had purchased the property in 1873 from Frank Johnston of Jackson, Mississippi, who had acquired it that same year after settlement of the estate of James Brown, builder of Beauvoir. According to family tradition as related by his granddaughter, Mrs. Hobart D. Shaw of Gulfport, Mississippi, Brown served as his own architect, completing the house by 1852.

Mrs. Dorsey, herself an author of religious literature, a biography of Henry Watkins Allen, Confederate governor of Louisiana, and a series of romantic novels, encouraged Davis to undertake his history of the Confederacy, The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government, published in 1881. Davis was joined at Beauvoir in 1878 by his wife, Varina Howell Davis, and the following year their daughter Varina Anne (Winnie, the "Daughter of the Confederacy") returned from her studies in Europe. Mrs. Davis assisted her husband in writing his manuscript, and both she and Winnie subsequently became authors in their own right.

In February, 1879, Davis contracted to purchase Beauvoir for \$5,000.00, to be paid in three installments over the next two years. Upon Mrs. Dorsey's death in July, however, it was found that she had willed the estate to him. During the next decade Davis received at Beauvoir a steady stream of visitors, including veterans of both the Confederate and Union armies, political and religious leaders, historians, and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bassett, Martha B., "The History of Beauvoir - Jefferson Davis Shrine." Master's thesis, University of Southern Mississippi, 1970.
 "Dorsey, Sarah Anne Ellis." Dictionary of American Biography. 1930. V, 386.
 Strode, Hudson (ed.), Jefferson Davis: Private Letters, 1823-1889. (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1966), 487.

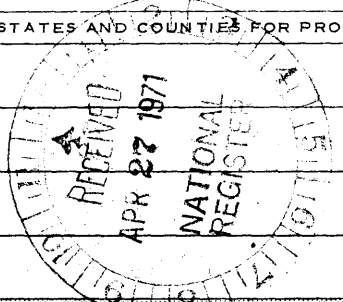
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	30° 23' 50"	88° 58' 22"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	30° 23' 50"	88° 58' 02"				
SE	30° 23' 31"	88° 58' 02"				
SW	30° 23' 31"	88° 58' 22"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **87 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Dawn Maddox, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History** DATE: **March 30, 1971**
Division of Historic Sites and Archaeology

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 North State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi 39205** CODE: **28**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *R. A. McLemore*
R. A. McLemore

Title: Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date: March 30, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Conine
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 3 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:
William H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

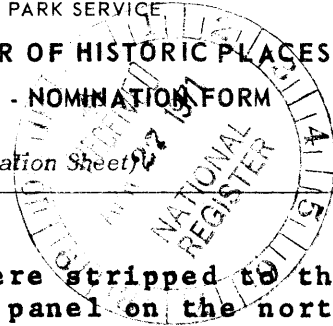
Date: **JUN 2 3 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.9.28.0010	9/3/71



(Number all entries)

7. of the remaining rooms were stripped to the original colors, which were then reproduced. A panel on the north wall of the dining room records the successive coats of paint removed therefrom. The room also has one of the most interesting touches in the decor of the entire house: a small anonymous overmantle done in oils, depicting hills, trees, and sky.

The remainder of the interior architectural detail is expressed chiefly in mantelpieces and molded door casings. The white marble mantelpieces of the parlors are the most elaborate, with pilasters, friezes, and shaped mantelboards. The casings around the sliding doors connecting these two rooms (as well as those of all doorways between the hall and adjoining rooms) are carved in a series of oval and circular insets.

The two cottages which flank the main house are contemporary with it. Davis used that on the east side as a study, and his books, desk, and chair remain, as well as the color scheme which he knew: blue ceiling and yellow walls. He enlarged the west cottage for the convenience of his daughter Margaret and her family on their visits to Beauvoir. The original architecture of both structures consisted of a single room with two entrances and floor-length windows, entirely surrounded by a diminutive version of the galleries of the main-house and topped by a pagoda-like roof.

Beauvoir was never a working plantation, and landscaping of the grounds has been on the limited domestic scale of the 19th century: orchard and kitchen, herb, and flower gardens. The latter were laid out in the wagon wheel design employed by Mrs. Davis, as given in a sketch drawn by her grandniece.

Beauvoir suffered comparatively little damage from Hurricane Camille (August, 1969), one of the most devastating storms in the history of the Gulf Coast. The veranda and steps of the east cottage and the steps of the main house were swept away, the basement museum flooded, and several 20th-century outbuildings demolished. Much of the landscaping was also lost. Following a concentrated program of repairs and replanting, however, Beauvoir stands today essentially as it appeared in the Davis years.

8. journalists. When he died in 1889, he willed the property to Winnie, upon whose death in 1898 it passed to her mother.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Mississippi	
COUNTY	Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	71928 0010	DATE
		9/3/71

(Number all entries)

8.

Mrs. Davis deeded Beauvoir to the Mississippi Division of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans (MDSCV) in 1902 for the sum of \$10,000.00, with the stipulation that it be utilized as (1) a free home for indigent Confederate veterans and their dependents, and (2) a perpetual memorial to Jefferson Davis, his family, and the Confederacy. At the request of the MDSCV, the Mississippi legislature established a veterans' home on the estate in 1904. By 1940 the diminishing number of inmates cared for prompted the return of Beauvoir to the MDSCV, with a legislative grant for converting it to a shrine, which opened to the public the following year.

In 1968 the Beauvoir Development Foundation was chartered, with responsibility for promoting the entire complex--house, museum, and gardens, as well as the research center and library of the Confederacy established in 1967.

9.

Strode, Hudson, Jefferson Davis: Tragic Hero. (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1964), 462-63.
 Telephone interviews with Mr. Bowman Brodnax, Biloxi, Mississippi, March 6 and 8, 1971.
 Telephone interview with Mrs. Hobart D. Shaw, Biloxi, Mississippi, March 9, 1971.
 Work Projects Administration. "History of Harrison County: Old Homes" (typescript). Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.



BEAUVOIR - JEFFERSON DAVIS SHRINE
BILOXI, MISS.

FAÇADE OF EAST COTTAGE, LOOKING N.E.

MARCH 8, 1941

PHOTO BY
HINMAN

FROM
Chauncey T. Hinman
4505 Kendall Ave.
Gulfport, Miss.

NPS Number 71.9.28.0310

Title: Jefferson Davis Shrine

Loc. Harrison, Miss.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

①



Jacket 533-183 Illus No. 154A

Width 27 picas Depth 18½ picas Focus 47 %

NPS Number 71.9.28.

Sq. Ht. Line Comb. Sil'ce Broad

Title: Jefferson Davis

Loc. Harrison, Miss.

FAÇADE OF MAIN HOUSE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FROM
Chauncey T. Hinman
4505 Kendall Ave
Gutport, Miss.

HINMAN

BEAUVILLE - JEFFERSON DAVIS SHRINE
Biloxi, Miss.
FAÇADE, LOOKING N.W.
MARCH 8, 1941

B-62

“Beauvoir” [Jefferson Davis House]
National Historic Landmark (NHL) Nomination
Listed on 11/07/1973

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NHL

STATE: Mississippi	
COUNTY: Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME	
COMMON: Jefferson Davis Shrine	
AND/OR HISTORIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Beauvoir" -- Jefferson Davis House	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 West Beach Boulevard (U.S. Rt. 90)			
CITY OR TOWN: Biloxi			
STATE Mississippi	CODE	COUNTY: Harrison	CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans			
STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 1055			
CITY OR TOWN: Jackson	STATE: Mississippi	CODE	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of the Chancery Clerk, Harrison County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 101 East Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Biloxi	STATE: Mississippi	CODE	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey; National Register			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936; 1971 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: (1) HABS: Division of Prints and Photographs, Lib. of Congress; (2) NR: Miss. Dept. of Archives and Hist., Jackson, Miss.			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

STATE: MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY: HARRISON
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

411

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Beauvoir is an example of the "raised cottage," with a residential story supported on 9-foot brick pillars above a full basement. In the 19th century, the latticed basement was unfinished except for a small room bricked off and used for storage of meat and wine. A furnace has been installed in this area and the remainder of the basement now houses a museum of Davis and Confederate memorabilia.

A broad flight of steps with balustrade rises to the veranda, which extends across the facade and halfway around each side elevation. Square wooden columns are aligned above the basement pillars and support a continuation of the balustrade at their base. The floor-length windows are triple-sashed, six lights to the sash, and flanked by 3-part wooden shutters. The ceiling of the veranda and the exterior of the main block, down to the molded baseboard, are plastered, while the rear wings are covered with wooden siding.

The floor plan of Beauvoir was evidently designed to take advantage of natural ventilation provided by the gulf winds. A wide hall bisects the central block of four rooms. Four rear rooms are off-set from the main block, two on each side. All eight rooms open onto the front or rear verandas, and in some instances onto both. Furnishings are those used by the Davis family, and the designation of rooms is as it was in their occupancy. The room to the rear of the present dining room was apparently a serving room to which food was brought from the outside kitchen which no longer exists.

The outstanding feature of the Beauvoir interior is the frescoed walls and ceilings of the hall and parlors. A profusion of rococo themes--shells, garlands of fruits and flowers, mythological figures--is rendered in a rainbow of soft colors such as mauve, gray, green and ivory.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1877-
1889

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1877-1889**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beauvoir was the home of Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) during the last 12 years of his life. Other than the "White House of the Confederacy" in Richmond, Virginia, no residence closely associated with his productive life still exists.* The 87-acre estate at Biloxi is a summing up of the great man's life, partly memorialized in his 2-volume opus The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government written at Beauvoir. Although Beauvoir represents a time of retirement from active events, it provides a means of reflection upon and recapitulation of Jefferson Davis' role, not only as President of the Confederacy, for which the Richmond White House would be ample illustration, but also his prominence in antebellum America.

As a hero of the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War, he rose to prominence in the U.S. Senate as a southern nationalist defending the South's economy and society against the hue and cry of abolitionism on the one hand, and pressing for the territorial expansion of the "Cotton Kingdom" on the other. While not assessed as being instrumental in the development of party strategy, he was a persuasive orator who was regarded in the public mind as a prominent spokesman of his party. As Secretary of War under Franklin Pierce he utilized the topographical surveys for expanding and developing the frontier, hoping that his direction of the railroad surveys would specifically commercialize a southern empire expanding west and south. He intensified the professionalization of the army and instituted a new strategy of frontier defense which ultimately led to the removal of the Indian from the frontier.

* "Brierfield" on Davis Island is the house most substantially related to Davis' most productive years. It burned in the 1930's leaving only the raised foundation of the Davis house. (The colonnade was added after Davis' association with the house). Today, the site, with its ruins and oak trees is isolated, untouched, and picturesque.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stevenson, Nathaniel Wright, "Jefferson Davis," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. V., New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943.

Strode, Hudson, Jefferson Davis: Tragic Hero, New York, Harcourt Brace and World, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	30°	23'	50"	88°	58'	22"			
NE	30°	23'	50"	88°	58'	02"			
SE	50°	23'	31"	88°	58'	02"			
SW	30°	23'	31"	88°	58'	22"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 87 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Benjamin Levy, Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE 2/5/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE D.C. CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(57)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Jefferson Davis House, "Beauvoir"

Biography

Born in Kentucky, Davis was brought to Mississippi as a child. In Mississippi the family became wealthy through the success of Jefferson's older brother, Joseph. Educated at Transylvania University, he entered West Point and graduated as a second lieutenant and proceeded immediately to the northwest frontier for seven years, getting his first taste of combat in the Black Hawk War of 1832.

Returning to Mississippi in 1835, he led the life of a planter for the next decade and prepared himself for a life of politics. In 1846, at the outbreak of the Mexican War he resigned his seat in Congress and took command of a volunteer regiment known as the "Mississippi Rifles" joining General Taylor in time to participate in the attack on Monterey. Taylor then appointed him a commissioner to negotiate the surrender of Monterey. The next year, Davis established his reputation as a soldier. At the Battle of Buena Vista, his regiment successfully supported Taylor's rapidly collapsing left flank, thus preventing the Mexican Army from severing the line of communication and potential route of retreat.

As a hero of Buena Vista he easily gained a Senate seat where he was publicly esteemed but not popular with his party due to his support for Polk's expansionist policies. He even advocated the seizure of Yucatan. His imperialism favored southern commercialism, and while he favored new territories, he resisted measures which would forbid slavery in them. His senatorial career, which extended to an additional term, after several years as Secretary of War, was marked by a cooperationist attitude amalgamated with a strong Southern nationalism. As his rhetoric grew more intense through the decade of the 1850's in defense of Southern rights, his activities seemed to support the view that what Davis was really after, was an achievement of a "dual sovereignty" with the South sharing certain exclusivity of power within the union. To this end he joined the White House conclave in 1854 from which emerged the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Again, while he joined Yancey and Rhett in dividing the Democratic Convention in Charleston, he wrote to Rhett, thereafter, and urged an attitude of cooperation. Ultimately, with the Republican victory of 1860, Davis saw no further feasible compromise and acquiesced in his State's secession.

His tenure as Secretary of War has often been regarded as the peak of his career; certainly it was the most to his taste. He used his office to build the economic power of the South, hoping to equal the North and hence balance it. Consequently, he was eager for Southern expansion and, therefore, often found himself in contention with William L. Marcy, Secretary of State, and promoter of Northern party interests. Davis

(continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (2) Jefferson Davis House, "Beauvoir"

pressed the Spanish seizure of the Black Warrior and the Ostend Manifesto as pretexts for American penetration of the Caribbean. He directed the railroad surveys toward the southern route to the Pacific and urged the Gadsden Purchase toward this end. He instituted a frontier defense policy of concentration of power at fewer posts with emphasis on the mobility of cavalry and succeeded in increasing the cavalry on the frontier.

The years of the Presidency were harsh, characterized by an unceasing storm of criticism leveled against Davis. He was charged with over-managing the war by fancying himself a military leader. He was charged with coddling friends in the government; with depriving men of their liberties and states of their rights. As Confederate fortunes failed, the criticism grew more violent. What was worse, he chose not to recognize the defeat, and urged the South on past endurance. When capitulation came, followed swiftly by his own capture and imprisonment, he was a ruin of a man.

By sheer force of will he regained his strength in retirement during a decade of travel in the United States and Europe. In 1877 he rented the east cottage at Beauvoir from Mrs. Sarah Anne Ellis Dorsey who encouraged him to undertake his history of the Confederate government. Both his wife and daughter joined him the following year and assisted him with the publication. In 1879, Mrs. Dorsey died willing Beauvoir to Davis. During his last years he received a steady stream of visitors, some of whom urged him to return to the Senate. He would not, however, refusing to take the oath to the Union necessary to be seated.



B I G L A K E

U. S. G. S. 7.5' ³
 Biloxi Quadrangle
 Scale 1:24000
 1954

8 M I S S I S S I P I

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Jefferson Davis Shrine			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Beauvoir			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 West Beach Boulevard (U. S. Highway 90)			
CITY OR TOWN: Biloxi			
STATE: Mississippi	CODE 39531	COUNTY: Harrison	CODE 047
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Biloxi Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1954			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Property boundaries where required. North arrow. Latitude and longitude reference. 			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SCALE:			
DATE:			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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STATE	
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COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COMMON: Jefferson Davis Shrine			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Beauvoir			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
200 West Beach Boulevard (U. S. Highway 90)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Biloxi			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	39531	Harrison	047
	28		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Chauncey T. Hinman			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 8, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Hinman Advertisers			
4505 Kendall Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi 39503			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Façade of main house, looking northwest.			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COMMON:			
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Façade of east cottage, looking northeast.			