



Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Farmers and Merchants Bank is a two story commercial building with a flat roof behind a parapet. Giant pilasters with simple capitals articulate the five bays of the facade and the seven bays of the north elevation. The outer bays on both elevations project slightly as pavilions. The first floor center and outer bays were originally entrances. The variously sized windows have double-hung sashes; their sills and lintels form belt courses which are recessed slightly behind the faces of the pilasters.

ALTERATIONS: The pedimented hood over the Washington Avenue entrance was replaced with a balconet which has recently been removed. The original doors in the outer bays have been replaced by windows.

OUTBUILDINGS:

None

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

None

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank is architecturally significant because it represents the introduction of Neo-classical formality and monumentality into a late nineteenth-early-twentieth century business district characterized by small brick and frame structures. In addition, it is the only large-scale, early twentieth century commercial building to retain most of its original appearance. Built in 1913, the Farmers and Merchants State Bank was the second bank in the city. Described as occupying "the most commanding part of town" and as the "first sight that greets the stranger's eye," (Thomas Ewing Dabney, Ocean Springs: The Land Where Dreams Come True. [Pascagoula: Lewis Printing Services, 1974 reprint of 1915 edition] p. 5), the building remains the most monumental building in the central commercial district. The banking firm, itself, did not survive the Depression of the 1930s.

NAME: Old Farmers and Merchants State Bank

STREET NO: 998 Washington Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Ocean Springs

COUNTY: Jackson

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Mr. William P. Allen, Jr.
ADDRESS P. O. Drawer U, Ocean Springs, Miss.

PRESENT USE: Office building

FORMER USE: Bank and drugstore

DATE: 1913

STYLE: Neo-classical

ARCH/BUILDER: unknown

SOURCE OF DATE: Sanborn Maps and building plaque

ENVIRONMENT: commercial

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL X

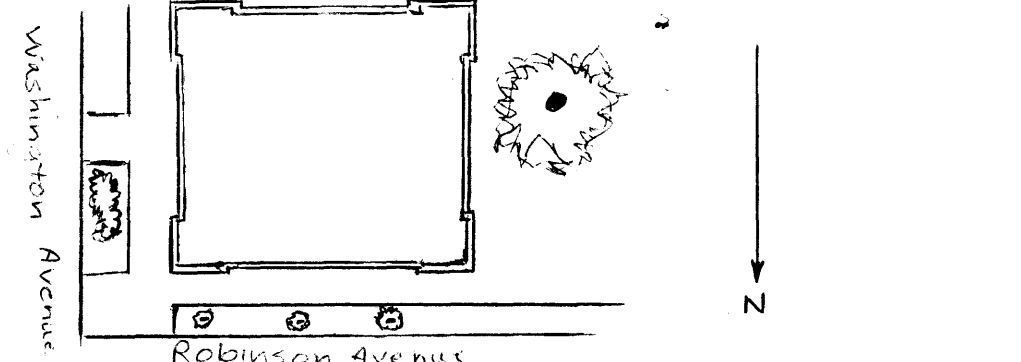
STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:



CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good

THREATS:

None

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Lot 6 of Block 128, page 1 of the City of Ocean Springs Map adopted by the Board of Aldermen.

ACREAGE: less than one acre

UTM REF:

A	1	6	3	2	4	4	4	0	3	3	6	5	8	7	0
	ZONE EASTING								NORTHING						
C	1														
B															
	ZONE EASTING								NORTHING						
D															

FORM PREPARED BY:

Brian Berggren

DATE

May 15, 1986



Old Farmers and Merchants State Bank,
998 Washington Avenue

Facade and north elevation, oblique view to
southwest

Individual nomination

Ocean Springs, ^{APR}Jackson County, Mississippi

Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History

Brian Berggren

November 1985

Photo 1 of 1