

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the southwestern corner of the intersection of Deason and Anderson streets just north of downtown Ellisville, the Amos Deason House is a one-story, frame, Greek Revival residence. The house rests upon brick foundation piers, which have been linked in recent years by brick infill, and is crowned by a hipped roof pierced by a central brick chimney. The front and side elevations of the original portions of the house are finished in wooden siding that is deeply notched to give the appearance of rusticated stone. According to family tradition, sand was added to the original finish coat of paint to increase the resemblance to stone. Recessed beneath the front slope of the hipped roof is a full-width gallery, which breaks forward at the center to form a semi-octagonal gallery bay under its own smaller hipped roof. The gallery features a full molded entablature with deeply projecting cornice and a baseboard that are carried around the original side elevations of the house. The gallery entablature is supported by wooden chamfered posts with molded capitals that are linked by a railing of thick, rectangular-sectioned balusters and molded handrail. The semi-octagonal gallery projection is echoed on the facade by a highly unusual, center-bay, semi-octagonal entrance vestibule that is beautifully detailed with a full molded entablature supported by molded corner pilasters. The northermost elevation of the vestibule contains the entrance doorway which is filled with double-leaf doors having two, molded and fielded panels. The northeasterly and northwesterly elevations of the vestibule were originally filled with fixed window sash, or sidelights, which were replaced by plywood in the mid-twentieth century. The eastern and western vestibule elevations each contain two molded panels. The two outermost bays of the five-bay northerly facade are deeply recessed and allow room for two additional parlor entrances in the eastern and western side elevations of the projecting, three-bay, central block. These matching entrances echo the fixed sash windows of the facade but are instead filled with double-leaf, glazed doors. The deeply recessed end bays, which provide access to the side "cabinet" rooms, are filled with matching single-leaf doors with four, molded and fielded panels. The original windows of the side elevations are filled with nine-over-six, double-hung sash. The rear elevation of the original portion of the house is finished in vertical board-and batten siding with shaped battens, and the window openings of the rear elevation feature deeply molded, shouldered architrave surrounds.

The interior plan consists of a central block of two rooms flanked by "cabinet" rooms. Serving as a hallway to link the larger front room, or parlor, to the smaller rear room, or possibly dining room, was originally a small porch that was accessed from the parlor and that separated the eastern "cabinet" room from the rear room of the central block. This porch has been enclosed and incorporated into an L-shaped corridor/room arrangement that was created during a late nineteenth-century enlargement. The walls and ceilings of the interior are finished in matched boards with a molded baseboard, the door and window surrounds throughout the house have molded architrave surrounds with two fascias, and the doors have four, molded and fielded panels. A wooden pilastered mantel piece with molded panel frieze and side cabinet with molded, single-panel door is a feature of the parlor, and a slightly plainer mantel piece with original side closet shares the chimney in the room to the rear. The "cabinet" rooms were not originally heated. In the late nineteenth century, a three-room, gabled frame addition with beveled and notched siding was added to the rear of the house. An L-shaped hallway, part of which survived as an open porch well into the twentieth century, linked the older front section to the newer rear section. The only alteration to the original house by the late nineteenth-century addition was the extension of a window into a door in the eastern "cabinet" room and the enlargement of the western "cabinet" room. Window openings which no longer opened onto the outside after the enlargement were sympathetically retained.

No original outbuildings have survived.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Amos Deason House

Continuation sheet Ellisville, Jones Co., Miss. Item number 10

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Page 1

direction along the Westerly line of Deason Street to the South line of the intersection of a gravel street (now paved), thence run in a Westerly direction along the South line of said street 220 feet more or less to a stake, thence run South 21 degrees West 150.2 feet more or less to the point of beginning, being in the NW $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 3, Township 7 North, Range 12 West, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 3, Township 7 North, Range 12 West, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 8 North, Range 12 West, being one acre more or less.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates mid-19th century

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Amos Deason House is one of Mississippi's most unique expressions of vernacular Greek Revival architecture. Stylistically, the house dates from 1855 to 1860, and, according to a published newspaper interview with A. D. Anderson, grandson of Amos Deason, the house was constructed for Amos Deason after he came to Jones County, Mississippi, from North Carolina about 1855. The house derives its significance from its unusual architectural character, from its historical association with the murder of Confederate Army officer Major Amos McLemore, and from its long history of family ownership. The semi-octagonal, well detailed, entrance vestibule is the only one of its kind known to exist in Mississippi. The simulated rusticated stone treatment of the facade and side elevations, while not unique, is unusual and well executed. The plan of the house with its two-room central block and side "cabinet" rooms is a floor plan not yet associated with any other house in the state. The interplay of the semi-octagonal gallery projection with the semi-octagonal entrance vestibule and the deeply recessed end bays combine to create an aesthetically pleasing, very distinctive facade. According to local tradition, Confederate Army officer Major Amos McLemore, supposedly on a mission to round up Confederate Army deserters, was shot and killed in the house by Newton Knight, a real man with a legendary reputation. Considered to be the oldest house in Ellisville, the Amos Deason House remains the home of Deason descendants.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellisville, Mississippi. Mr. and Mrs. Welton Smith. Papers connected with the Deason House including a newspaper scrapbook.

Miller, Mary Warren, preservation consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation. Inspection of C. H. Parsons House, February 29, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property one acre more or less +

Quadrangle name Ellisville, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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2	9	1	5	8	5
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3	4	9	9	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Commence at the NW corner of Section 3, Township 7 North, Range 12 West, run thence East on the section line 100 feet to the point of beginning; thence run South 21 degrees West 28.6 feet, thence South 70 degrees 30 minutes East 224.9 feet, to the Westerly line of Deason Street, then 231 feet more or less in a northeasterly

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date March 20, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120z

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P'Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 25, 1984

For HCPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

for Delores Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



DEASON HOUSE

Ellisville, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, the northerly facade
of the Deason House.

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez
Foundation, March 12, 1984 (Roll 243.38)

Photo 1 of 4



DEASON HOUSE

Ellisville, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, a close-up photograph
of the semi-octagonal entrance vestibule.

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez
Foundation, March 12, 1984 (Roll 243.41)

Photo 2 of 4



DEASON HOUSE

Ellisville, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking westerly, the side elevation of the Deason House showing the later 19th-century additions.

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, March 12, 1984 (Roll 243.17)

Photo 3 of 4



DEASON HOUSE

Ellisville, Jones County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, the parlor mantel piece
and side cabinet.

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez
Foundation, March 12, 1984 (Roll 243.14)

Photo 4 of 4