NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

436

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED
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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Merrill-Newhardt House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 508 W. Quitman Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Iuka N/A ☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Tishomingo code 141 zip code 38852

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	2	0 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	2	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Iuka

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Paul — June 17, 1991

Signature of certifying official — Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

~~Entered in the~~ National Register

Stephen Bryan — 8/9/91

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: single dwelling	DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Greek Revival	foundation BRICK PIERS
	walls WEATHERBOARD
	roof ASPHALT SHINGLES
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Merrill-Newhardt House is set back from the north side of West Quitman Street, an early and main east-west road past the mineral springs through Iuka. Several large trees shade the yard and there is a one-room building just east of the house that shares the home's Greek Revival style. (See Photo #1.)

The house is one story, with a truncated pyramidal roof trimmed with a square balustrade. The facade is five bay (W,W,D,W,W), with a simple single leafed wood paneled door centered under a four light transom. The door and the flanking 9/6 double hung windows have narrow surrounds with edging boards and rectangular blocks similar to those at Dunrobin, the R.C. Brinkley House. The nearly full length front gallery has a prominent gabled entry and hipped side extensions. It is supported on square hollow columns with molded capitals and bases. The simple frieze on the porch and the main section of the house has a molded cornice. Corner pilasters match the column style.

The west elevation has been altered by the addition of a door in place of a window and a small side porch. A second change occurred at the rear, where a small window was added for the kitchen. A shed roofed rear porch has been enclosed with new windows and weatherboard. Chimneys for the double-faced interior fireplaces were removed in the mid-20th century renovations.

The small building to the east is side gabled, with a single, four paneled door under a three light transom on the facade. A frieze and corner pilasters matching those on the house complete the facade detail. Single windows on the east and west elevations are 9/6 double hung, in frames similar to those on the house. The northern elevation has no windows, but a brick stovepipe flue which has been abbreviated to below roof level.

Nothing remains of the original interior of the house. The mantels, woodwork and walls have been altered. The floor plan remains essentially the same, though the left front room has been opened to include the width of the central hall and a bathroom has been installed at the rear of the hall.

☐ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1857	c.1857
Exploration/Settlement	1857-1861	

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Merrill-Newhardt House is locally significant achitecturally and historically because it is one of a very small number of buildings in the town of Iuka that survive from the early settlement period from about 1857 to 1861 (see cover documentation for the Historic Resources of Iuka). The house was built about 1857.

Edwin Merrill, owner, took up the job of Memphis and Charleston agent when John M. Stone moved on to become Iuka Mayor following the war. His daughter, Effie, who was raised in the house, married Professor John Newhardt, one of the 1882 organizers of the Iuka Normal Institute. The INI, located originally across the street in the buildings that had been used for the Iuka Female Institute, developed such a reputation that it moved to much larger quarters -- the Iuka Springs Hotel -- from 1894 to its demise in 1901. Professor Newhardt is said to have used the one room structure for a classroom when he continued teaching after the Institute closed. Some accounts of the house's history say that James Fenimore Cooper lived there after the war, during summers while he was writing for the Memphis Appeal.

Tyndal "Dick" Merrill, born in the house in 1894, was an aviation pioneer. He won the Harmon Trophy for piloting the first trans-Atlantic commercial flight in 1937. In the 1960s, he and entertainer Arthur Godfrey set 21 world speed records when they flew a corporate jet around the world. As an Eastern Airlines pilot, Merrill eventually recorded over eight million miles in the air.

Although the Merrill-Newhardt House differs in massing from the remaining group of vernacular Greek Revival ante-bellum cottages, it has in common the solid classical style which was the favored image for merchant class houses in the developing town. It shares some details with the L-shaped cottages and some with the R.C. Brinkley house on the old Eastport Road. Although its interior is changed, the exterior, with its associated yard, trees, and "school room," make it an important survivor of early town settlement and development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See main Bibliography.

☐ See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 1 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	390800	3852420
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Part Block #6, Hubbard Survey
Lot line fronting on West Quitman, to corner of Bettydale Dr., north to within 30 feet of the house, east to eastern lot line.

Tax Assessor's Map 1006, Section 05, Subdivision 24, Parcel 32

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the land still associated with the house, but not that area which has been divided for new properties.

☐ See continuation sheet

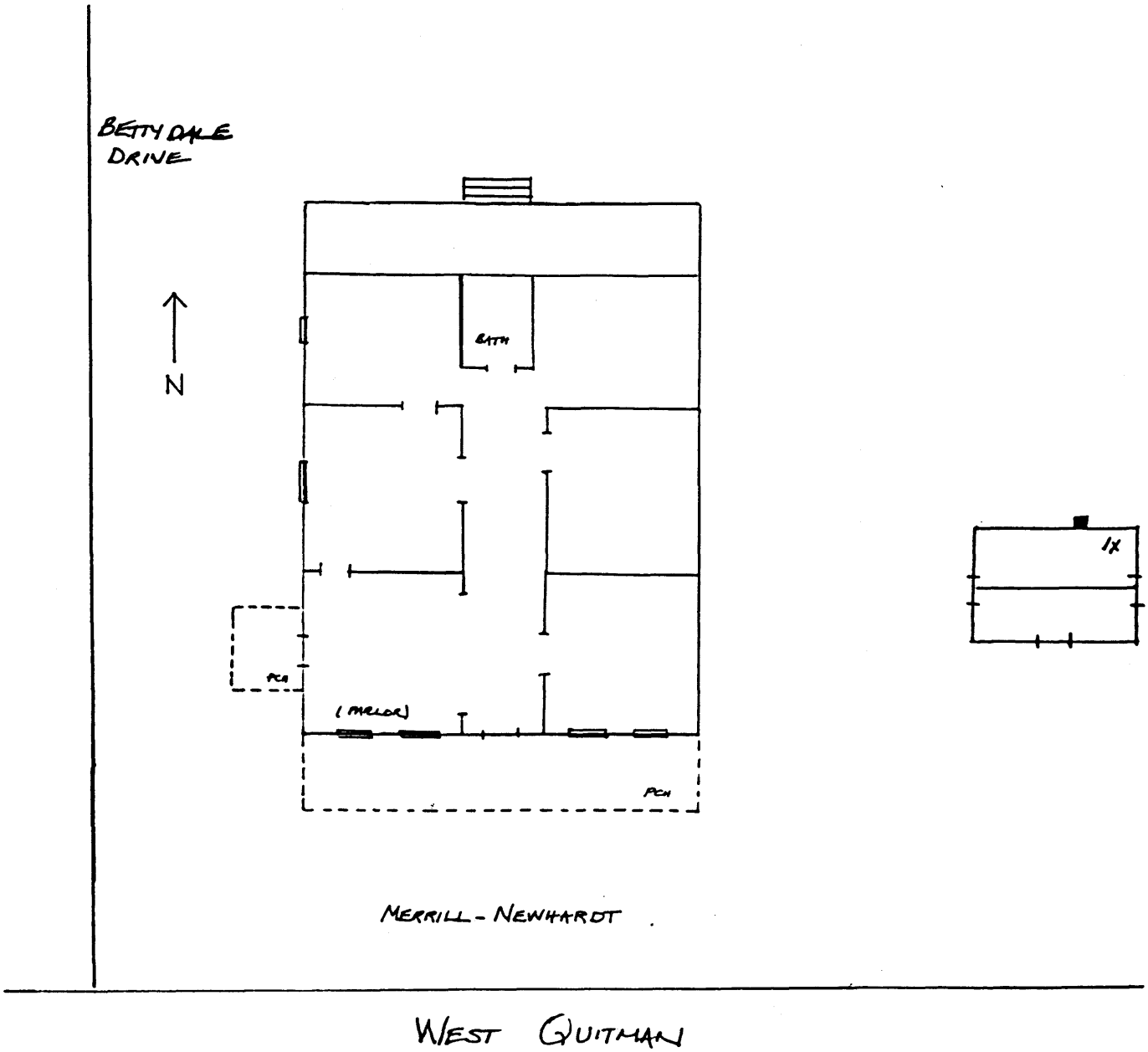
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Embree
organization Preservation Consultant date 2/20/1990
street & number 20 Lake Valley Road telephone (601) 324-0410
city or town Starkville state MS zip code 39759

Owner: Mrs. Alta Nelson, 508 W. Quitman, Iuka, MS 38852

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

Merrill-Newhardt House, Iuka, Tishomingo County, Mississippi



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Signature of certifying official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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	walls WOOD:WEATHERBOARD
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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The house is one story, with a low hipped roof finished by a square balustrade. The facade is five bay (W,W,D,W,W), with a simple single leafed wood paneled door centered under a four light transom. The door and the flanking 9/6 double hung windows have narrow surrounds with edging boards and rectangular blocks similar to those at Dunrobin, the R.C. Brinkley House. The nearly full length front gallery has a prominent gabled entry and hipped side extensions. It is supported on square hollow columns with molded capitals and bases. The simple frieze on the porch and the main section of the house has a molded cornice. Corner pilasters match the column style.

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Exploration/Settlement	1857-1861	1857

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Merrill-Newhardt House is significant as one of the small group of remaining ante-bellum resources which describe the early development of the new railroad town of Iuka. The house is mentioned in local history accounts as having suffered damage when a cannon ball passed through the rafters and lodged in the ceiling of the house during the Battle of Iuka on Sept. 19, 1862.

Edwin Merrill, owner, took up the job of Memphis and Charleston agent when John M. Stone moved on to become Iuka Mayor following the war. His daughter, Effie, who was raised in the house, married Professor John Newhardt, one of the 1882 organizers of the Iuka Normal Institute. The INI, located originally across the street in the buildings that had been used for the Iuka Female Institute, developed such a reputation that it moved to much larger quarters -- the Iuka Springs Hotel -- from 1894 to its demise in 1901. Professor Newhardt is said to have used the one room structure for a classroom when he continued teaching after the Institute closed. Some accounts of the house's history say that James Fenimore Cooper lived there after the war, during summers while he was writing for the "Memphis Appeal."

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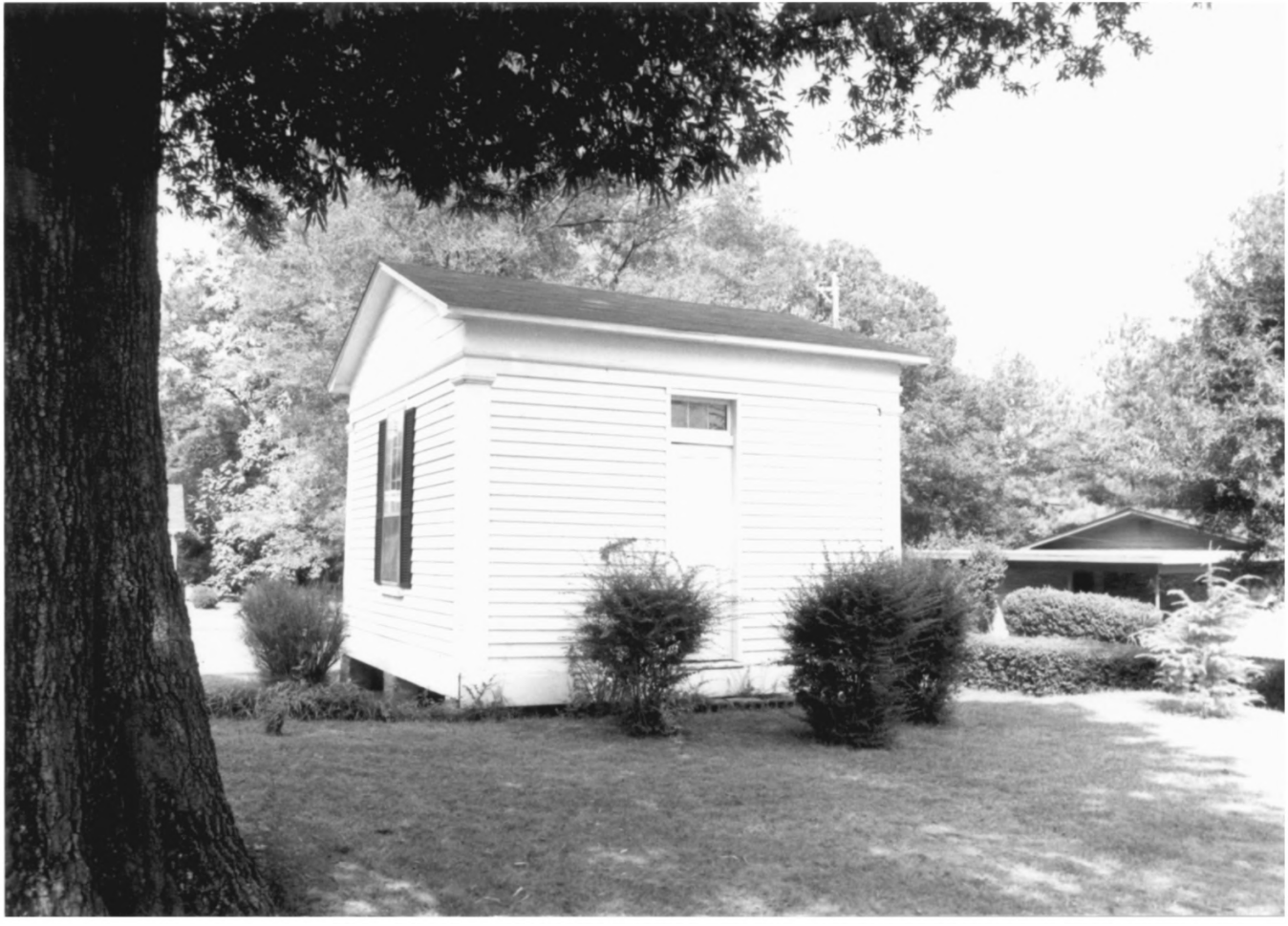
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Embree
organization Preservation Consultant date 2/20/1990
street & number 20 Lake Valley Road telephone (601) 324-0410
city or town Starkville state MS zip code 39759

Owner: Mrs. Alta Nelson, 508 W. Quitman, Iuka, MS 38852

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

MERRILL - NENHAUSER HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
FRONT ELEVATION - VIEW TO NORTH
PHOTO #1 OF 2



MERRILL - NENHARDT HOUSE
IUKA, MRE TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
FRONT ELEVATION - VIEW OF SCHULRUM (NORTH)
PHOTO 2 OF 2