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SEP 30 1985



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This two story, 3 bay wide, brick building features a recessed entrance with double doors and a large transom in the front central bay on the first floor. There are a variety of window styles. Those on the first floor, front facade are large, 4-pane windows, while the second story windows are 6/6 double hung sash. All the windows and entrances are capped by segmental brick arches. Decorative, corbelled brickwork accents the roofline.

ALTERATIONS: The second story porch, which spanned the front facade and was supported by wood posts has been replaced by a metal balcony. The building has also been sandblasted. The window sash was also replaced by new wooden sashes.

OUTBUILDINGS:

none

LANDSCAPE FEATURES: This commercial building is just northwest of the railroad tracks. It is located in Madison's commercial center, which developed on both sides of the tracks.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This building was constructed by the Hesdorfer brothers. The date of construction is 1890 according to a sign on the southeast facade. This building housed Joe Harrell's business, known as the Farr Mercantile Co., in the early 20th century. At the same time, the 2nd floor of the structure was used for municipal activities. The telephone exchange was located here and town meetings were held here, too. At Thanksgiving, Madison's citizens gathered in this building for a citywide potluck supper. Harrell sold his business shortly after World War I. The building housed the R.B. Price Mercantile Co. from 1930 to 1975. Mr. Price removed the 2nd story, wooden porch, which was badly deteriorated, and replaced it with a metal overhang. The building is significant because of the commercial, social and civic roles it played in Madison's history. Additionally, it is the last extant 19th century commercial structure left standing in the town's business district.

NAME: Farr Mercantile Co./R.B. Price Mercantile Co.
(Price-Cox Complex)

STREET NO: NW corner of Main and Railroad

TOWN/VIC: Madison

COUNTY: Madison

BLOCK/LOT: N/A

PRESENT OWNER: Roy Byrd Price, Jr., Frances Price Co.
ADDRESS 161 Montgomery St., Madison, MS 39110

PRESENT USE: antique store (Sidetrack Antiques)

FORMER USE: store

DATE: 1890

STYLE: commercial vernacular

ARCH/BUILDER: unknown

SOURCE OF DATE: sign on building

ENVIRONMENT: commercial

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL X

STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

Roll 1544 - 6, 7

NEG. #



Farr Mercantile Co./R.B. Price Mercantile Co.
NW corner of Main St. & railroad tracks,
front & east elevations, view to North-
west

Madison, Madison County, Mississippi
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
Susan M. Enzweiler
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