

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fairview School

other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 1278 N. Old Canton Road

city or town: Canton

state: Mississippi

code: MS

county: Madison

not for publication \_\_\_

vicinity X

code: 89

zip code: 39046

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*R. C. Roberts*

Signature of certifying official

*Feb. 3, 2009*

Date

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_ 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):

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Fairview School  
other names/site number:

**2. Location**

street & number: 1278 N. Old Canton Road  
city or town: Canton  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Madison not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
vicinity X  
code: 89 zip code: 39046

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ 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): _____	_____	_____

---

**5. Classification**

---

**Ownership of Property:** private

**Number of Resources within Property: 1**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:** individual

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

n/a

0

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

**Historic Functions:** Education: school

**Current Functions:** vacant

---

**7. Description**

---

**Architectural Classification(s):**  
no style

**Materials:**

foundation: concrete block

walls: wood

roof: metal

other:

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

---

**8. Statement of Significance**

---

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Education  
Ethnic Heritage-Black

**Period of Significance**

1890 - 1956

**Significant Dates****Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder**

n/a

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

See continuation sheets.

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**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
- Name of repository:  
Fairview Missionary Baptist Church
-

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	778350	3600840	C		
B				D		

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title: Nancy H. Bell

organization: Vicksburg Foundation of Historic Preservation

street & number: 1107 Washington St.

city or town: Vicksburg

date: July 20, 2007

telephone: 601636-5010

zip code: 39183

state: MS

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Property Owner(s)**

---

name: Fairview Missionary Baptist Church

street & number: 1278 N. Old Canton Road

city or town: Canton

telephone: 601-856-6287

state: MS

zip code: 39046

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7 Page: 1

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

Description

Fairview School is located on the grounds of the Fairview Missionary Baptist Church in a rural section of Madison County, Mississippi just off U.S. Highway 51. It is a one-story frame building, facing west, with wood drop siding that has been partially covered with tar paper and plywood. The school building is a 24' 7" x 44' 8" rectangle which sits on a concrete block foundation. The building was moved in 1995 from the south side of the lot to the north side of the lot when a new church building was erected. The church building is set to the right of the school and does not block the view of the school from the highway. The school building is in nearly an identical location, as the distance of the move was about fifty (50) feet, and retains integrity of setting. The school is topped with a corrugated metal gable roof and there are no eaves. The single center bay on the façade is filled with a six-light, three-panel wood door. The rear elevation has one center bay as well; however the door is missing. There are five bays on the south elevation and four bays on the north elevation which are filled with 4/4 double-hung wood sash, some of which are missing and others which are covered with metal panels.

During the building's use as a school, the interior was divided into two rooms. This stud wall has been removed and in its place are 4x4 posts supporting the 9' 11" ceiling. Interior walls are sided in tongue-and-groove wood siding and the floor is tongue-and-groove as well. Two of the original benches and one of the original tables that were used by the students remain in the school, as does the shelf and cabinet used to store lunches, books and coats. An enclosed stair in the southeast corner provides access to the attic where, according to the school's alumni, firewood was stored for use in the cast iron stoves that provided the building's only heat. The stoves are no longer in the building.

While the building is in serious need of rehabilitation, it does retain its integrity of design, setting, workmanship, feeling, association and a majority of materials. Its significance as a two-room rural school that provided education for hundreds of African American children within the Fairview neighborhood makes its preservation and rehabilitation essential.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 2

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

Significance

Criterion A- Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black

The Fairview School is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A- Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black, being locally significant in the field of African American education. The building served as the neighborhood school for hundreds of African American children beginning possibly as early as 1890 through the early 1960s.

Criteria Considerations

Fairview School is owned by a religious institution, but derives its significance from its historical importance as an African American school. While the building was moved a short distance from its original location, it maintains essentially the same setting in the same neighborhood and since the significance derives from its history as a school in the neighborhood, the move of fifty feet does not affect its significance.

Historical Summary

Fairview School was established about 1890 in a building that originally housed a Masonic lodge. Oral history recounts that the original two-story lodge was renovated for use as the school by removing the second floor and installing a partition wall dividing it into two classrooms, the front classroom being of a smaller area than the back room. State Department of Education records from the 1950s, however, place the building's date of construction in the 1920s, and the physical evidence, including a light framing system and drop siding seem to support this later date. Possibly the Masonic lodge was indeed adapted for the school, which was then later rebuilt in the 1920s.

The two-room school building is located on land owned and occupied by the Fairview Missionary Baptist Church (established in 1889). In the early years of the public school system in Mississippi, it was normal for public schools to be established by churches on church property. With the advent of consolidation in the 1910s, white schools began to move onto their own publicly owned property, but black schools commonly remained attached to churches in small, unconsolidated schools such as Fairview until the 1950s. Church history recounts that the school was housed in the church until the Masons merged with another lodge and the school was moved into their building. An average of

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 3

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

forty students in grades first through eighth attended the Fairview School. One teacher instructed the first three grades in the front classroom. The curriculum included writing, reading, spelling, language, and math and was taught with students sitting on six or seven long handmade wooden benches, using kerosene lamps for light. Another teacher occupied a table in the back room with students in grades four through eight occupying eight or ten similar benches. When it was time for a particular grade's instruction, those students would move to a bench in front of the teachers' desk.

The building was heated with a cast iron wood stove which the students kept filled from a wood pile in the attic or under the stairs to the attic. The blackboard was two wide horizontal boards painted black. The bathroom was a privy behind the school building and the playground was a flat, grassy area in front where the children would play stickball and other games. Prior to recess the students would retrieve their lunches from a cabinet in the corner of the back room and their coats and hats from nails at the rear of the room.

Part of a segregated county school district in the Jim Crow-dominated South, Fairview School was a rural neighborhood school with students walking up to a mile and a half to attend. After completing the eighth grade at Fairview School, students who were able were sent to Madison Rosenwald School in the town of Madison to complete their education. Fairview School was the focus of the surrounding rural community as it served as a meeting place for the glee club, the 4H Club, and for other community functions. In the early 1960s the school was closed and the students were moved to Madison Rosenwald.

Three miles south of Fairview School was a one-room school called True Vine (not extant) and another one-room school, Good Hope (not extant), was located about four miles to the north. In all, around 50 small rural African American schools similar to Fairview dotted the landscape of Madison County in the early to mid-twentieth century. Today, Fairview School is one of only two 2-room African American schools remaining in Madison County, and is the older of the two. The other 2-classroom school is Andrews Chapel School, built in 1943 and abandoned for many years. Andrews Chapel is in a state of serious deterioration, and although it would be eligible for the National Register if it were appropriately repaired, its later date reflects a different period of school building in Madison County, and therefore it is not completely comparable to Fairview School. A three-room school for African Americans, Zion

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 4

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

Chapel School, is located northeast of Canton. Built in the 1920s, it is also still owned by its church congregation but has not been proposed for National Register nomination. Regardless, the fact that as late as the 1950s, Madison County contained at least 46 public rural schools for African American students and that only a handful of these once ubiquitous buildings remain, means that this small remaining percentage should be considered eligible for the National Register, if any of the buildings retain their historic integrity.

During the early decades of the 20th century, most rural white students in Madison County also attended elementary classes in two and three-room frame buildings (none extant) and advanced to brick, multi-room high schools in Madison, Flora, and Canton. The only brick elementary schools in the county for white or black children were located in Madison, Canton, and Flora. Town schools that were built for black students in Madison County and still remain are Camden Colored School (1947), A. M. Rogers Grammar School (1953), Cameron Street Elementary School (1937) and Madison Rosenwald (established 1920 but no buildings earlier than 1952 still extant)—all of these date to a later time and as city schools are in a different class of architecture than the Fairview School.

Fairview School has been minimally maintained by the Fairview Missionary Baptist Church throughout the years since its closing. Although some unsympathetic changes have been made, and the building suffers the effects of deferred maintenance, the negative cosmetic appearance of the building is far outweighed by its value as one of only a few surviving examples of a small rural African American schools in Madison County. When the church was in the process of erecting a new building in 1995, a campaign was launched by Franklin Jefferson, an alumnus of the school, to save and restore the school building. Plans for the new church required the land where the school building was located. The only way to preserve the building was to move it about fifty feet from its original location. Jefferson, a social studies professor at Jackson State, produced a video detailing the history of the building and the need to preserve this part of African American history. It was at this time that a new foundation was poured on the opposite side of the church's lot and the building was moved. Unfortunately, Mr. Jefferson died shortly after making the video plea and little rehabilitation has occurred since.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 5

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

Although Fairview School is deteriorated, it continues to be a source of pride for those who attended the school and for those who live in the neighborhood. There is a great interest by the alumni of Fairview to rehabilitate the building and recognize the school for having been a place for hundreds of neighborhood children to learn.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 9

Page: 6

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

Bibliography

Jefferson, Franklin. Video interview provided by Robert Jefferson, 1995.

Jefferson, Robert. Interviewed by Nancy Bell in Madison, Mississippi, 2007.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division,  
Jackson, Mississippi. Historic Resources Inventory files.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 10

Page: 6

Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

Section 10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property on which the school building sits is owned by the Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, whose two buildings and playground also occupy the land. The school building is located 159' from the east edge of North Old Canton Road, 12' to the north and 11 ½' to the east of the old church building. It is also 77' to the north of the new church building. The boundary includes the area on which the school building sits with a six foot buffer on each side of the building. The Madison County parcel number is 831-30-005/00.00.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the part of the property on which the school building sits with a six foot buffer on each side of the building.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: Photography Log Page: 7

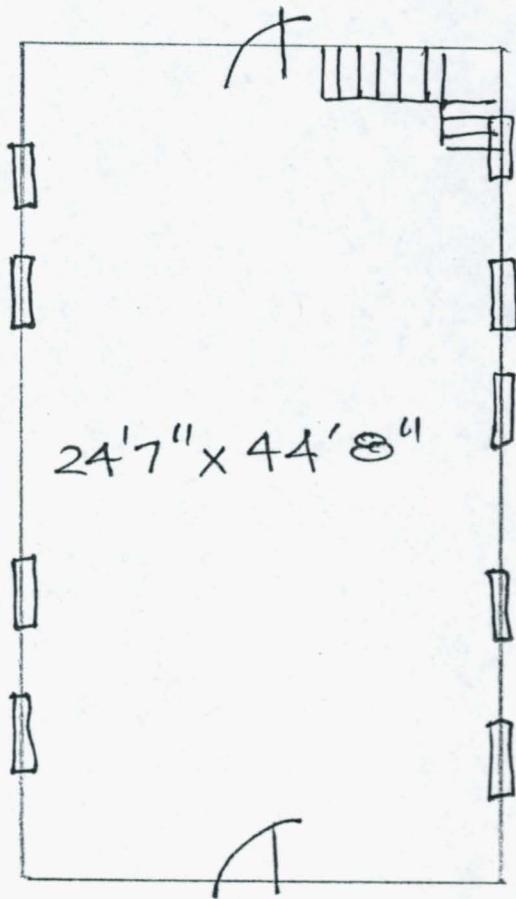
Fairview School  
Madison County, Mississippi

---

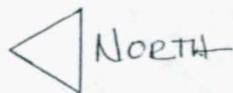
Photographs

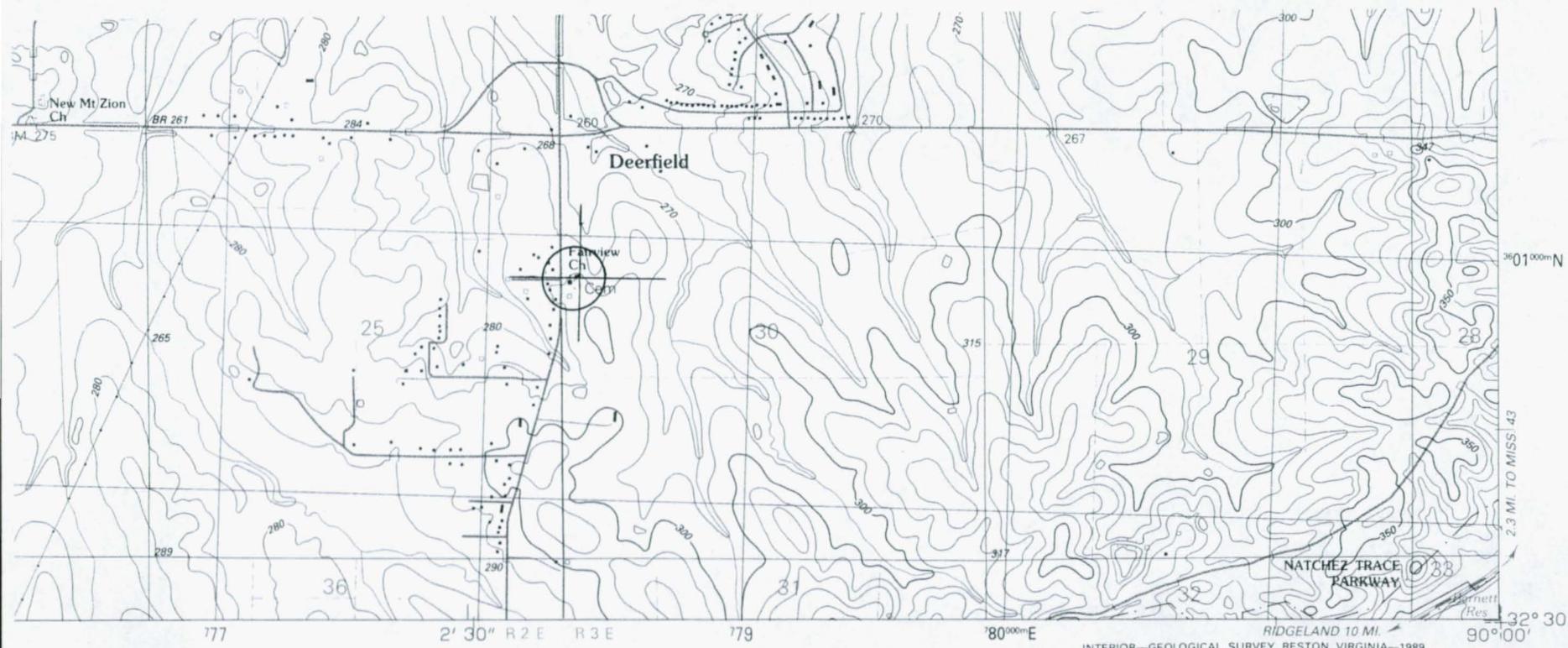
1. Fairview School
2. Canton, Madison County, Mississippi
3. Nancy H. Bell
4. 2007
5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1 of 6	Front (west) elevation
Photo 2 of 6	Side (south) elevation
Photo 3 of 6	Rear (east) and side (north) elevations
Photo 4 of 6	Interior, view to the east
Photo 5 of 6	Interior, view to the west
Photo 6 of 6	Window



Fairview School  
Canton, Madison County, MS





Fairview School  
 Canton vicinity,  
 Madison County, MS



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

UTM Reference:  
 15/778350/3600840

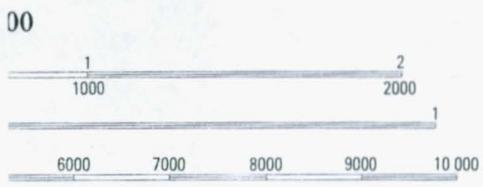
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface .....	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ...
Secondary highway, hard surface .....	Unimproved road ...
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

CANTON, MISS.  
 SE/4 CANTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
 32090-E1-TF-024

1989

DMA 2949 II SE - SERIES V843



10 FEET  
 TERVAL 5 FEET  
 DATUM OF 1929  
 P ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 ORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 YMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3010000N  
 2.3 MI. TO MISS 43  
 32° 30'  
 90° 00'

(GOSHEN SPRINGS)  
 3048 N NW





