



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Old Homestead, reference number 88000124 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 02/22/1988, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of 03/04/1988. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.



Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Homestead; Dr. George Augustus Sykes House

and/or common Julian T. Evans House

2. Location

street & number 503 W. Commerce

N/A not for publication

city, town Aberdeen

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Monroe

code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Julian T. Evans, Jr. Life Estate

street & number 503 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen

N/A vicinity of

state MS 39730

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chancery Clerk Building

street & number 201 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen

state MS 39730

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Homestead and its two ancillary buildings occupy a 2.5 acre tract at the southwest corner of W. Commerce and Long Streets. The property is approximately three blocks west of Aberdeen's commercial area. In this part of town, Commerce Street is predominantly residential in character. However, directly north of the Old Homestead is a public elementary school complex and to the east of the mansion are three churches - First Presbyterian Church (1895), St. John's Episcopal Church (1851-1853), and First Baptist Church (1925-1927).

The Old Homestead's large lot has no formal landscaping but is shaded by such indigenous trees as pine, live oak and magnolia. Trimmed shrubbery grace the front facade of the Old Homestead. Its barn is almost enveloped in overgrown bushes.

The Old Homestead is a two story, five-by-five-bay frame house resting on brick piers with decorative brick lattice infill. The house's cubical form primarily features Greek Revival motifs but also borrows picturesque design elements from the Gothic Revival style.

The front (north) elevation is dominated by a two story portico located in the central bay. The portico has two massive panelled box columns resting on plinths and capped by simple Doric capitals. They support a low hip roof. The portico's two pilasters, which mirror the positions of the columns, echo this treatment. The columns are linked to the pilasters by wooden balustrades featuring a variation of the "sheaves of wheat" motif. The soffit between the two box columns and those between the box columns and pilasters display pierced archivolt with pendants. The portico has new wooden steps and a wood deck. The wall located in the portico area is sheathed in flushboard. The frontispiece located within the portico on the first floor consists of double-leafed, panelled doors flanked by slender pilasters and sidelights with aprons beneath them. Above is a transom with corner lights. The whole is enclosed in a battered, pedimented surround. On the second story, within the portico, a similarly designed entrance opens onto a balcony with a balustrade like that on the first floor. The bottom edge of the balcony is accented by brackets, dovetail scrollwork and pendants. Flanking the portico, on both stories, are pairs of six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with panelled surrounds featuring bull's eye corners, architrave lintels and louvred shutters. The front facade's endboards repeat the design of the portico pilasters.

The side (east) facade imitates the design of the front elevation. On the west elevation is an early twentieth century porch addition with a panelled balustrade connecting panelled box columns which support an entablature. The porch surrounds an exterior brick chimney with a corbelled cap. Extending from the southwest corner of the rear (south) facade is a small wing with a low hip roof. The rear windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash with plain surrounds, architrave

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 ca. 1852

Builder/Architect Dr. George Augustus Sykes

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Homestead is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C because of its architectural characteristics.

In the 1850s there developed in Columbus, Mississippi (approximately 27 miles southeast of Aberdeen) a unique eclecticism in residential architecture. Drawing from the popular styles of the day, houses of a conventional Greek Revival form displayed a combination of Gothic porticoes and Italianate cornice brackets and polygonal towers. This blending of the classicism of Greek Revival with Gothic and Italianate picturesque elements resulted in grand mansions of unusual grace and charm. Among the examples still extant in Columbus are Errolton, Sunnyside and White Arches (Ken P'Pool, "The History of Architecture in Columbus," Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, pp. 120-121). In Aberdeen, the Old Homestead is a less sophisticated example of this mid-nineteenth century eclecticism. The five by five bay house's cubical form is predominantly Greek Revival in character. It also features additional picturesque design elements like pierced archivolt with pendants accenting the soffits of the porticoes and a corbelled chimney cap. In the community of Aberdeen, the Old Homestead is a significant example of a regional trend in domestic architecture. None of the other mansions in the town incorporate this eclecticism into their designs, but are essentially Greek Revival in character. Two antebellum cottages, McDearman at 120 N. Hickory Street and the Mary Frances Gregg House at 410 S. Meridian Street, are more modest expressions of this regional, mid-nineteenth century eclecticism within Aberdeen. Its barn, contemporaneous with the residence, is locally significant as an example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture as it was applied to outbuildings. As far as can be determined at this time, the Old Homestead's barn is the only high style, antebellum, ancillary building in Aberdeen.

Dr. George Augustus Sykes was the youngest of three brothers who migrated to Aberdeen from Virginia. His future residence, the Old Homestead, was under construction in 1852. It is not known when construction of the main house and the barn were completed. Today, in 1987, the house is still inhabited by Dr. Sykes' descendants (Mary Wallace Crocker. Historic Architecture in Mississippi. [Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1977], p. 137 and Helen Crawford, "Aberdeen...Looking Backward Through the Years at the History of the City," Aberdeen [Miss.] Examiner, May 22, 1986. p. 5B).

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Aberdeen, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	5	6	6	6	0	3	7	4	3	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel Number 108-J-34-005-001-00 as recorded in the Numerical Index located in the Chancery Clerk's Office.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler - Architectural Historian

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

date September 1987

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state MS 39205

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenneth H. P. Paul

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 6, 1988

For NPS use only

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

date

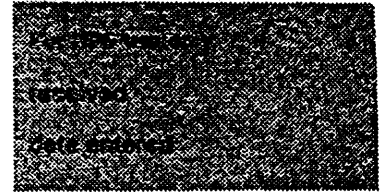
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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



**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Old Homestead, Aberdeen MRA,
Monroe Co., Miss. Item number 7 Page 1

lintels and louvred shutters. The rear elevation also has two exterior brick chimneys with corbelled caps and an entrance (probably an alteration) to the crawl space beneath the house. An entablature encircles the house below its low hip roof.

According to the 1899 Sanborn Map, the west elevation was divided into three bays. The northernmost bay projected beyond the other two. The central bay was comprised of a two story porch or a two-tiered gallery which was in antis between the end bays of the facade. Between 1910 and 1918, the bungalow style porch was added on the west facade and the wing was also added to the southwest corner of the house.

The Gothic Revival barn is a one and one-half story, three by two bay structure composed of a main block with a smaller, almost identical, appendage on each of its rear corners (the northwest and southwest corners). The gable roofs of the three components of the barn display scrollwork type bargeboards and eave trim. The main block's front (east) facade has double doors of lattice work construction and above them, the front gable exhibits a Gothic arched opening with double wooden doors and lattice work in its peak. Several feet above its foundation, the main block is encircled by a strip of lattice work (possibly for ventilation). Each appendage has wooden double-leafed doors and the one on the northwest corner has a second door of widely-spaced vertical slats set off-center in its gable. The roofs are covered in corrugated tin.

The 1899 Sanborn Map also records the tripartite Gothic Revival barn. Its one-and-one-half story middle section was a stable, the north wing was a shed and the south wing was a carriage house. To the southeast of the barn was a well. The outhouse and an unidentified outbuilding were near the property's western boundary.

Behind the house, near the lot's western boundary, is a modern garage of no architectural significance and thus noncontributing. The house and barn constitute two contributing buildings.

Nominated Properties

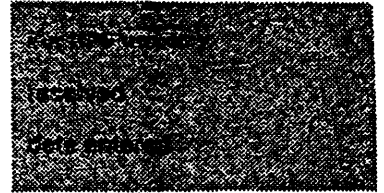
Contributing Elements

1 individual property

2 buildings

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

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Old Homestead, Aberdeen MRA

Continuation sheet Monroe Co., Mississippi

Item number

9

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crawford, Helen. "Aberdeen...Looking Backward Through the Years at the History of the City." Aberdeen (Miss.) Examiner, May 22, 1986.

Crocker, Mary Wallace. Historic Architecture in Mississippi. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1977 (Third Printing).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Aberdeen (1899, 1910, 1918).



The Old Homestead, 503 W. Commerce Street
Aberdeen, Mississippi

Susan Enzweiler

September 1986

Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History

View to South

Photo 19 of 207



The Old Homestead, 503 W. Commerce Street
Aberdeen, Mississippi
Photographer Unknown
Early 20th Century
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
View to Southwest
Photo 20 of 207