

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH050995-7

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 6 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAY 5 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hebron Academy

AND/OR COMMON

Rock Hill School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 18

CITY, TOWN

Brandon

☒ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Rankin

CODE

121

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

In process of determination (see Statement of Significance)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Rankin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 126

CITY, TOWN

Brandon

STATE

Mississippi 39042

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1973

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

___GOOD

XFAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hebron Academy, located off Route 18 four miles south of Brandon, Mississippi, at the summit of a gently rolling hill, is a well-proportioned, single-story coursed rubble stone structure with long and short work defining the corners. Set on a high foundation pierced by narrow slits which ventilate the framing, the five-bay, gable-roofed structure has interior end chimneys. A large, plain box cornice encloses the overhanging eaves. Fenestration is symmetrical on the southern and northern elevations, and limestone sills and lintels, some with delicate pecked and chiselled margin detailing, are set at each sashless opening. The southern elevation is distinguished as the facade by the placement above the central entrance of a date stone, which records the name of the builder. Servicing both entrances are stone steps with cheeks.

At either end of the undivided interior are great fireplaces with arched, metal lintels. Although walls are now exposed stone, roughed lintels and nailing blocks or their ghost holes suggest that the interior was originally lathed and plastered. A narrow-strip hardwood floor and tongue-and-groove ceiling were installed in 1934, as was the corrugated tin roof.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Yost

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in an area of Mississippi marked by a lack of native stone, Hebron Academy, built in 1860-61, is a rare example of nineteenth century vernacular masonry architecture. The single-room schoolhouse, constructed with two types of locally quarried stone, is of fine proportion and workmanship and is complimented by a propitious wooded setting. Surviving basically unaltered, it is one of the earliest and most unusual extant rural school buildings in the state.

The present structure, replacing a ca. 1857 frame school that stood nearby, was built to house a private academy for the prosperous agricultural community. A forty-five-acre tract of land adjoining the Hebron Church property had been donated to the five trustees of the academy by David Dixon [Dickson] (Deed Book 15, p. 39). Sandstone for the facility was quarried locally on Jones Dickson's estate just south of the school site, and limestone for the sills and lintels was brought from the property of A. P. Miller, three miles west of Brandon. Identified on the date stone as the builder is John Yost, reportedly from Brandon but not listed in the 1860 Rankin County census.

In 1860, over half the white children attending school in Mississippi were in nonpublic institutions. Wealthier Mississippians seem to have preferred private schools for their children, since the terms were longer and the quality of education better. While no statistics for the number of private schools in the state in 1860 are available, since they were seldom incorporated by the state legislature, the 1850 figures do show that 171 such schools were in existence in that year.

Public education in Mississippi, dependent at first only upon revenues from sixteenth section lands, and even after the 1846 Common School Act hampered by an ineffective taxation provision, had met with only moderate success. After the 1869 Mississippi constitution established a workable state public school system, many previously private schools were absorbed into the plan. How long after the Civil War Hebron Academy continued to operate as a private institution is not known, but by 1889 the "well-built stone school" was under the jurisdiction of the county superintendent of education. Hebron continued to operate through the first two decades of the twentieth century, but consolidation, approved by the state legislature in 1910, led to the phasing out of numerous small rural schools, and eventually brought an end to use of the one-room, two-teacher facility. In 1923 Hebron Academy became a part of the Brandon Consolidated School.

Although there is no known title transferring the academy property from the trustees to the Rankin County Board of Education, the county has assumed ownership for over eighty-five years. In 1934 the vacated schoolhouse and grounds were converted into a recreational facility by the Works Progress Administration. The present floor, ceiling, and tin roof were added at that time. The Hebron Academy Association, formed in 1973 to prevent the Board of Education from selling the academy property, is working with the county and the Board of Education to establish a clear title to the property and to ensure that the building and site are preserved and restored.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

HEBRON ACADEMY, RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI - AMENDMENT

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Located in an area of Mississippi marked by a lack of native stone, Hebron Academy, built in 1860-61, is a rare example of nineteenth century vernacular masonry architecture. The single-room schoolhouse, constructed with two types of locally quarried stone, is of fine proportion and workmanship and is enhanced by a propitious wooded setting. Surviving basically unaltered, it is one of the earliest and most unusual extant rural school buildings in the state.

The present structure, replacing a ca. 1857 frame school that stood nearby, was built to house a private academy for the prosperous agricultural community. A nearly forty-five-acre tract of land adjoining the Hebron Academy property had been donated to the five trustees of the academy by David Dixon [Dickson] (Deed Book 15, p. 39). Sandstone for the facility was quarried locally on Jones Dickson's estate just south of the school site, and limestone for the sills and lintels was brought from the property of A. P. Miller, three miles west of Brandon. Identified on the date stone as the builder is John Yost, reportedly from Brandon but not listed in the 1860 Rankin County census.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Although there is no known title transferring the academy property from the trustees to the Rankin County Board of Education, the county has assumed ownership of the nearly forty-five-acre property for over eighty-five years. In 1934 the vacated schoolhouse and grounds were converted into a recreational facility by the Works Progress Administration. The present floor, ceiling, and tin roof were added at that time. The Hebron Academy Association, formed in 1973 to prevent the Board of Education from selling the academy property, is working with the county and the Board of Education to establish a clear title to the property and to insure that the building and site are preserved and restored.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rankin County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 15.

United States. Work Projects Administration. Source Material for Mississippi History. Rankin County. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 44.1 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 222820 3569820
ZONE EASTING NORTHING 3 20
C 16 222420 3569420

B 16 222800 3569320
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 16 222440 3569820

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Hebron Academy property is shown inside the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Hebron Hill School Survey."

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mary McCahon Shoemaker, Architectural Historian
W. Norman Chronister, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION Mississippi Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

DATE

October, 1977

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

STATE

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 23, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

W. Norman Chronister
W. Norman Chronister

DATE

5/15/78

DATE

4-25-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PHOTO NO. 1⁰² - HEBRON ACADEMY
Vicinity of Brandon, Rankin County,
Mississippi
Mary McCahon Shoemaker
October, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
General view from southeast

MAY 5 1978

DEC 6 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PHOTO NO. 2⁸² - HEBRON ACADEMY
Vicinity of Brandon, Rankin County,
Mississippi
Mary McCahon Shoemaker
October, 1977
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