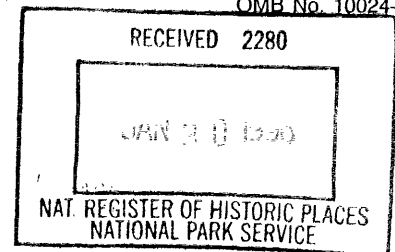


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mound Bayou Bank

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number West Main Street n/a ☐ not for publication

city or town Mound Bayou n/a ☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Bolivar code 11 zip code 38762

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Perle
Signature of certifying official/Title

January 23, 1996
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Edson B. Bean
Signature of the Keeper

3/1/96
Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

Mound Bayou Bank
Name of Property

Bolivar County, Mississippi
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

n/a

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

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: commercial vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls brick

roof not visible
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mound Bayou Bank
Name of Property

Bolivar County, Mississippi
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/black

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1904-1914

Significant Dates

1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

Mound Bayou Bank
Name of Property

Bolivar County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	115	710090	31751051010
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michelle Weaver/Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date November 14, 1995

street & number Post Office Box 571 telephone 601/359-6940

city or town Jackson state Mississippi zip code 39205

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lillie Thompson

street & number Post Office Box 254 telephone n/a

city or town Mound Bayou state Mississippi zip code 38762

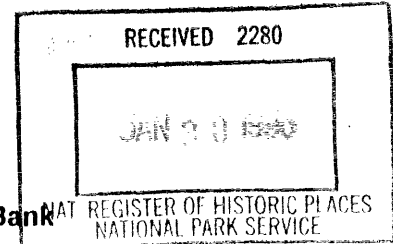
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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 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

Mound Bayou Bank
Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, Mississippi



Section number 7 & 8 Page 1

7 - Description

Located on West Main Street in the downtown area of Mound Bayou, the Mound Bayou Bank building is a two-storey, brick, commercial building with a chamfered corner containing the main entrance. The building features segmented arches above the upper windows and a decorative corbelled cornice at the parapeted roofline. A non-historical, one-storey, concrete block addition is located to the south of the building.

The eastern facade features original, metal pilasters that separate the three bays of the first storey (d, w-w, w-w). The door is a modern, wooden, flush door with a small, round, glazed portal and is topped by a transom. Windows are paired and filled with modern, metal, two-over-two, double-hung sash. Transoms above the windows have been infilled with plywood. The entrance to the first storey is located at the chamfered corner on the northeast side. The door at this entrance is glazed and is surmounted by an infilled transom and flanked by three-light sidelights, some of which have been infilled.

The upper storey retains its original wooden, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The eastern, southern, and northern elevations each have three windows, while the chamfered elevation has paired windows.

The first storey of the Bank retains its open space, with flush-board walls, ceilings, and floors. The second storey is accessed by the doorway on the eastern elevation, and the space is subdivided into two major areas. The upper storey is finished similarly to the first with flush-board walls, ceilings, and floors.

Although the Mound Bayou Bank building has undergone some changes in recent years, it retains a degree of historic integrity through retention of the original placement of doors and windows, as well as the retention of the original floor plan of the first storey. The Bank stands as the only historic, commercial building from the early settlement period of Mound Bayou.

8 - Statement of Significance

The Mound Bayou Bank building is locally significant for its role in Commerce and African-American history under Criterion A. The period of significance is from the establishment of the Mound Bayou Bank in 1904 to 1914 when the stock in the bank was dissolved. It stands as the only historic, commercial building testifying to an active, independent community of African Americans in the Mississippi Delta during the early twentieth century.

In 1887, under the leadership of I.T. Montgomery and B.T. Green, approximately twenty former slaves purchased land from the Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Railway Company to establish a community composed solely of African Americans. This attempt of self-determined segregation was one of the many solutions tried in the South to find a place in society for the millions of newly freed slaves. The early settlers of Mound Bayou built homes and became successful cotton farmers on the recently cleared land in the Delta. Soon, businesses owned and run by African Americans for African Americans were established to provide the inhabitants with needed consumer goods and services. The Mound Bayou Bank was established by Charles Banks and John Francis for the fiscal needs of the people of Mound Bayou in 1904 with a capital investment of \$10,000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mound Bayou Bank

Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, Mississippi

Section number 8, 9 & 10 Page 2

The bank prospered, as did the community, through the early years of the century. The Mound Bayou Oil Mill and Manufacturing Company, the largest cotton oil mill in the state, was completed in 1907 through investments from the leaders of the Mound Bayou Bank. New settlers continued to come to Mound Bayou to enjoy the high level of independence and success not always found in Southern African American communities. Cotton prices continued to rise and the citizens of Mound Bayou enjoyed both financial and social success. Booker T. Washington stated that Mound Bayou was a model of independence for the Negro in the South. The town was indeed a beacon of hope to the millions of African Americans who sought a life without daily reminders of Jim Crow in the South.

Unfortunately, this prosperity was not to last. In 1914, after a decline in cotton prices, failed financial undertakings, and the interference of outsiders, the State Banking Commission closed the Mound Bayou Bank. The oil mill was sold to white investors who squandered the assets. During these years, many farmers lost their land and joined the great migration to Chicago and other northern cities. Disaster continued to plague the town and fires in 1926 and 1941 destroyed the majority of commercial structures in the town.

Today, the Mound Bayou Bank building is the only commercial building remaining which suggests the prosperity the thriving community experienced in the early years of the twentieth century. After the bank was closed, the building continued to serve the community in various roles, including the post office, a credit union, a cafe, and a residence. Alterations have been made in such a way that they have not irreversibly changed the historical integrity of the building. The Mound Bayou Bank building stands as a symbol of the courage and entrepreneurship exhibited by hundreds of Mississippi African Americans in the years following the Civil War.

9 - Bibliography

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

Mississippi Landmark Files, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi
Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Site visits, August 10 & October 26, 1995, by Michelle Weaver, Architectural Historian,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

10 - Geographical Data

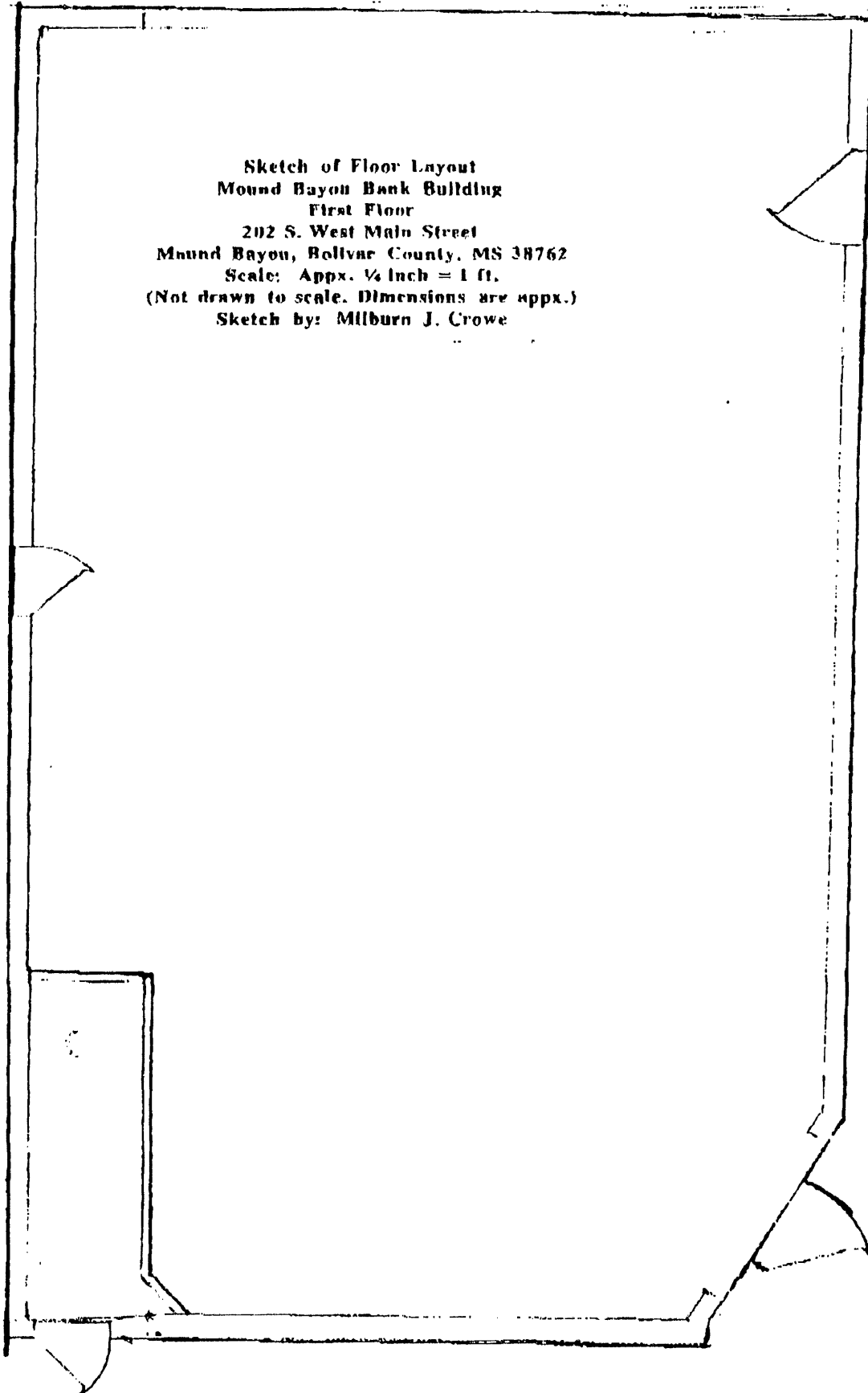
Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1, Block 13, also of the Green Square, of the Town (now City) of Mound Bayou, according to the map on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk at Cleveland, second Judicial District, Bolivar County, Mississippi.

Boundary Justification

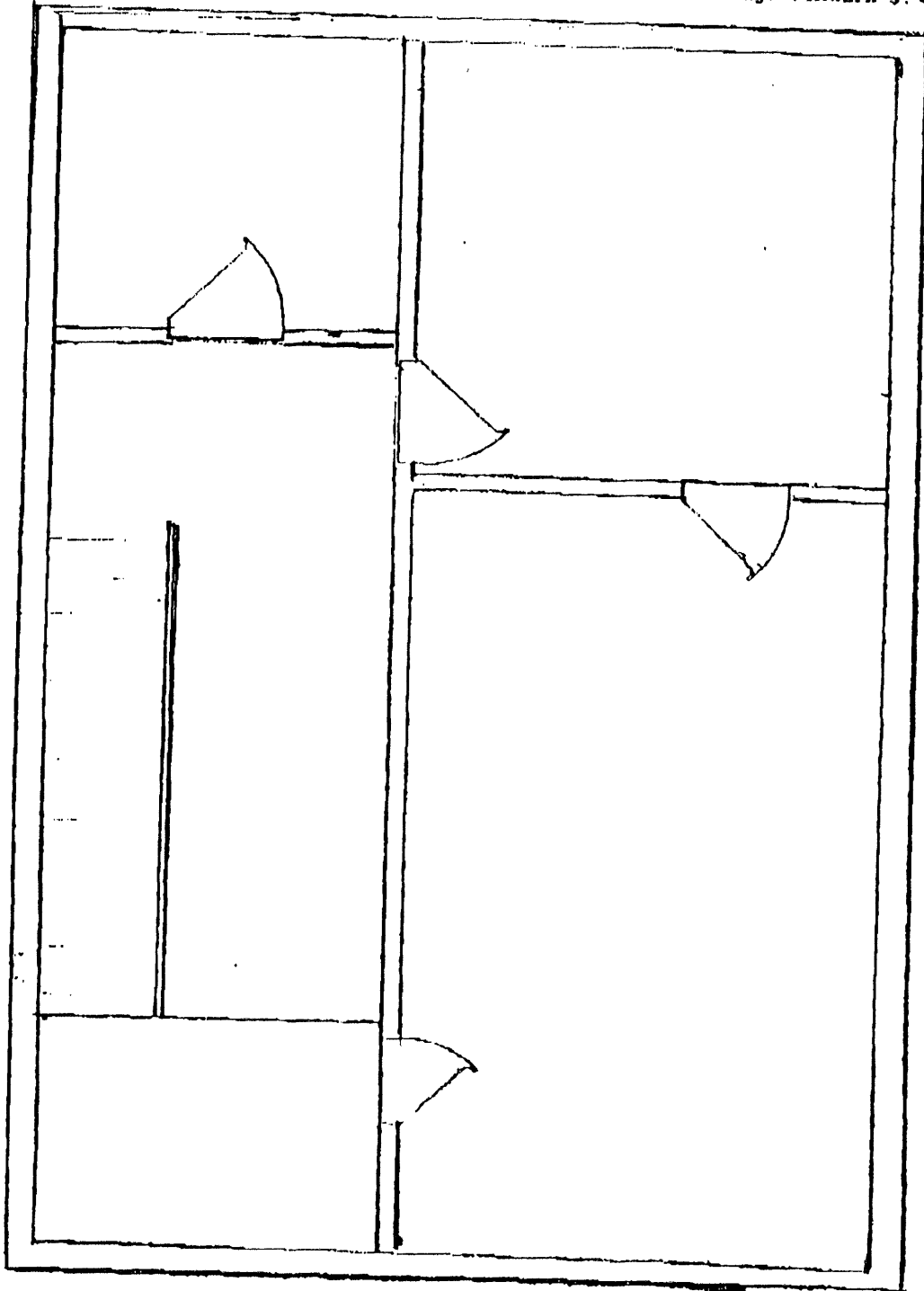
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Mound Bayou Bank in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Sketch of Floor Layout
Mound Bayou Bank Building
First Floor
202 S. West Main Street
Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, MS 38762
Scale: Appx. $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 ft.
(Not drawn to scale. Dimensions are appx.)
Sketch by: Milburn J. Crowe



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Sketch of Floor Layout
Mound Bayou Bank Building
Second Floor
202 S. West Main Street
Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, MS 38762
Scale: Appx. $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 ft.
(Not drawn to scale. Dimensions are appx.)
Sketch by: Milburn J. Crowe



2



Mound Bayou Bank

Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, Mississippi

Michelle Weaver

October 1995

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

East facade and northern elevation, facing southwest

#1 of 1