

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi  
 COUNTY: Oktibbeha  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: APR 29 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:  
E. E. Cooley Building  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:  
John M. Stone Cotton Mill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Gillespie Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Starkville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second  
 STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39759 COUNTY: Oktibbeha CODE: 105

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

office, storage, and maintenance facility for educational institution

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mississippi State University  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Mississippi State (Starkville vicinity) STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39762 STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

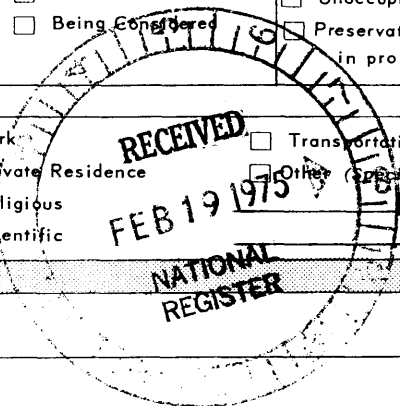
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Oktibbeha County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Starkville STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39759 STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Mississippi State University: Survey of Historic Architecture on the Campus  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1974  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 571  
 CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205 STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Mississippi  
 COUNTY: Oktibbeha  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

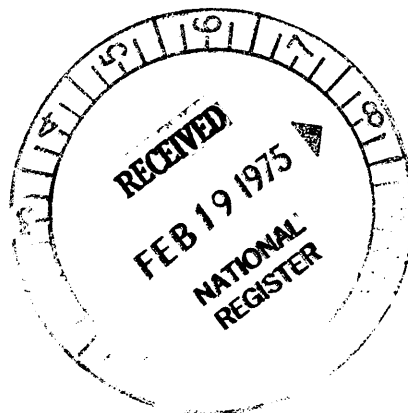
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The E. E. Cooley Building, originally constructed to house the John M. Stone Cotton Mill, is a large rectangular structure approximately 384 feet long and 75 feet wide, not including an additional wing at the rear. The two-story brick building faces north from an elevated site approximately one mile west of the main campus of Mississippi State University, just within the Starkville city limits. Its site slopes to the east, allowing the structure a third, ground floor level at the east end. The main entrance to the building is through a fanlit facade doorway in a square, four-story tower that originally housed a stairway and water tank. Placed west of center on the forty-five bay facade, the tower is embellished with corbelling which becomes progressively more elaborate towards the uppermost level, where corner pilasters and bull's-eye windows on all four surfaces complete the ornamentation.

Physical evidence and early photographs indicate that additions were probably made to the original mill building on at least three separate occasions. The ten easternmost and five westernmost bays, as well as a wing which projects southward at the east end of the building, appear to have been additions to the original fabric, but there is no documentation which indicates exactly when any of these additions were made. A photograph of the mill published in 1913, however, pictures the tower more toward the east of the building as it existed then, evidently prior to the addition of the ten easternmost bays.

At a total cost (including purchase price) of \$4.02 per square foot, the mill building was renovated in 1965 for use by Mississippi State University's Physical Plant (maintenance) Department. Renovation work included the conversion of a portion of the total 107,558 square feet of floor space into business offices; the patching and repair, where necessary, of the three-inch, tongue-in-groove flooring; the splicing of some of the 16" x 18" structural beams to replace rotten sections; the removal of the stairway from the tower; the sand-blasting of the exterior surface of the building to remove modern coats of white paint; and the laying of a special composition floor over the original wooden one so that it could withstand the abuse of heavy-duty equipment. Other minor alterations have further adapted the mill structure to its current function with minimal effect on its physical integrity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1902

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The E. E. Cooley Building now owned by Mississippi State University was designed by Stewart W. Cramer in 1902 as the John M. Stone Cotton Mill, named for former governor John Marshall Stone (1830-1900), who had been serving as the second president of Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College at the time of his death. Stone had been instrumental in the establishment of the Textile School which opened at A. & M. College in 1900, but the connections between its academic training program and the commercial venture represented by the mill extended beyond mere nomenclature.

Although the Stone Mill was neither constructed on the A. & M. campus nor supported with college funds, its early connection with the Textile School is undeniable. Arthur Whittam, the first director of the Textile School, resigned his position there to become the first president of the John M. Stone Cotton Mill, and the membership of the mill's founding board of directors consisted almost entirely of men with close ties to the college, among them J. C. Hardy and R. C. King, the college's president and secretary, respectively. Even the builder of the mill, W. T. Christopher of Columbus, was also responsible for a number of A. & M. College building projects during the years immediately surrounding the construction of the Stone Mill.<sup>1</sup> There is some speculation that the mill may have obtained much of its initial equipment from the surplus of machinery which was enthusiastically donated to the new Textile School by northern manufacturing firms, and local tradition in Starkville contends that when the Textile School was finally disbanded in 1914, the milling machinery no longer needed by the college was loaded onto wagons and carted to the Stone Mill for continued service.<sup>2</sup>

In light of its early and close association with neighboring A. & M. College, it seems appropriate that the John M. Stone Cotton Mill, later operated as the J. W. Sanders Cotton Mill,<sup>3</sup> should have eventually become the property of the college's successor, Mississippi State University. The building continued to function successfully as a textile mill under various ownerships until 1962, and in 1965 it was purchased by the university and adapted to house that institution's physical plant department. The sensitive and economical renovation<sup>4</sup> of such a sizeable factory structure in order to suit the needs of a modern state university makes the present E. E. Cooley Building an exemplary instance of creative preservation through adaptive use.

(continued)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Mississippi. Laws of the State of Mississippi, Passed at a Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature Held in the City of Jackson Commencing January 2, 1900, and Ending March 12, 1900. Jacksonville, Fla.: Vance Printing Company, 1900.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Miscellaneous newspapers on microfilm. 1870-1902.

(continued)

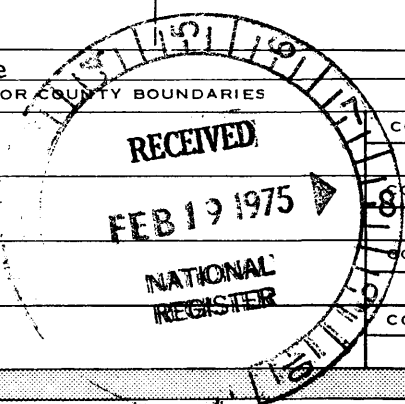
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	33°	27'	26"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	88°	48'	09"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



W  
W  
D

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Elizabeth P. Reynolds, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives and History**      DATE: **Feb. 14, 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 571**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson**      STATE: **Mississippi 39205**      CODE: **28**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name Elbert B. Williard

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 14, 1975

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

W. Mortensen  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/29/75

ATTEST:  
W. Mortensen  
Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 28 1975

STATE	Mississippi
COUNTY	Oktibbeha
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
APR 2 1975	

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FEB 19 1975

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL REGISTER

Number all entries

8. Significance (continued)

The E. E. Cooley Building of today also stands as a substantial and preserved material representative of an important phase in the economic history of Mississippi. In 1879, the Hinds County [Mississippi] Gazette confidently reported, "The cotton factory fever is just now engaging the attention of many southern towns."<sup>5</sup> These communities were evidently seeking to profit economically from processing their primary agricultural product on the home. By 1900, largely due to legislative encouragement of textile as well as of manufacturing in Mississippi,<sup>6</sup> newspapers statewide were filled with reports of the construction and expansion of local textile mills. The John M. St. Cotton Mill/E. E. Cooley Building is a particularly important remnant of the turn of the century wave of industrialization. It was almost certainly the first of from its inception as a prototype for similar concerns throughout Mississippi because of its proximity to and close association with the state's professional training facility and the expertise that was gathered there. In the Draft Prospectus for the Stone Mill, printed in 1901, the advantages of this situation are clearly pointed out in order to encourage potential stockholders to invest in the concern:

Another advantage, and one which cannot be but conceded as of inestimable value to an enterprise of this description is the nearness to the State Textile School, where any information or advice can be had on short notice, and where experiments and tests of any description can be made for the mill free of any cost. . . . Such an institution is a source from which mills can obtain better superintendents, overseers, second hands, section hands, etc., etc., enabling them to turn out goods with some originality at a lower cost of production. Furthermore the proposed mill at this place would, whenever necessary, have at its disposal the advice of the Textile School instructors, all experienced mill men and specialists in their particular branch of the industry. This is an advantage many Northern towns have paid thousands of dollars to secure.<sup>7</sup>

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Identity of architect, contractor, and board of trustees listed on original cornerstone, which is still in place on the facade of the building.

<sup>2</sup>Recounted by the father of Charles P. Newell of Starkville (both father and son were once managers of the mill).

(continued)

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Oktibbeha	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 29 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

<sup>3</sup> Mississippi State Rating Bureau, Report no. A-454, October, 1957:  
"Starkville Mills, Inc. (Formerly J. W. Sanders Cotton Mill, Inc.), Starkville, Mississippi," Statewide Survey File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

<sup>4</sup>See "Physical Description."

<sup>5</sup>Raymond (Miss.) Hinds County Gazette, December 24, 1879.

<sup>6</sup>Mississippi, Laws of the State of Mississippi, Passed at a Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature . . . 1900, pp. 50-51, 244-45.

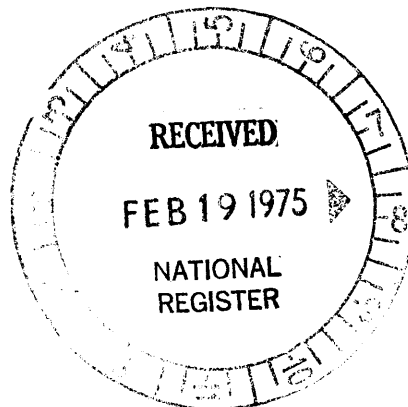
<sup>7</sup>John M. Stone Cotton Mills, Draft Prospectus, Mississippi State University Archives, Starkville, Miss.

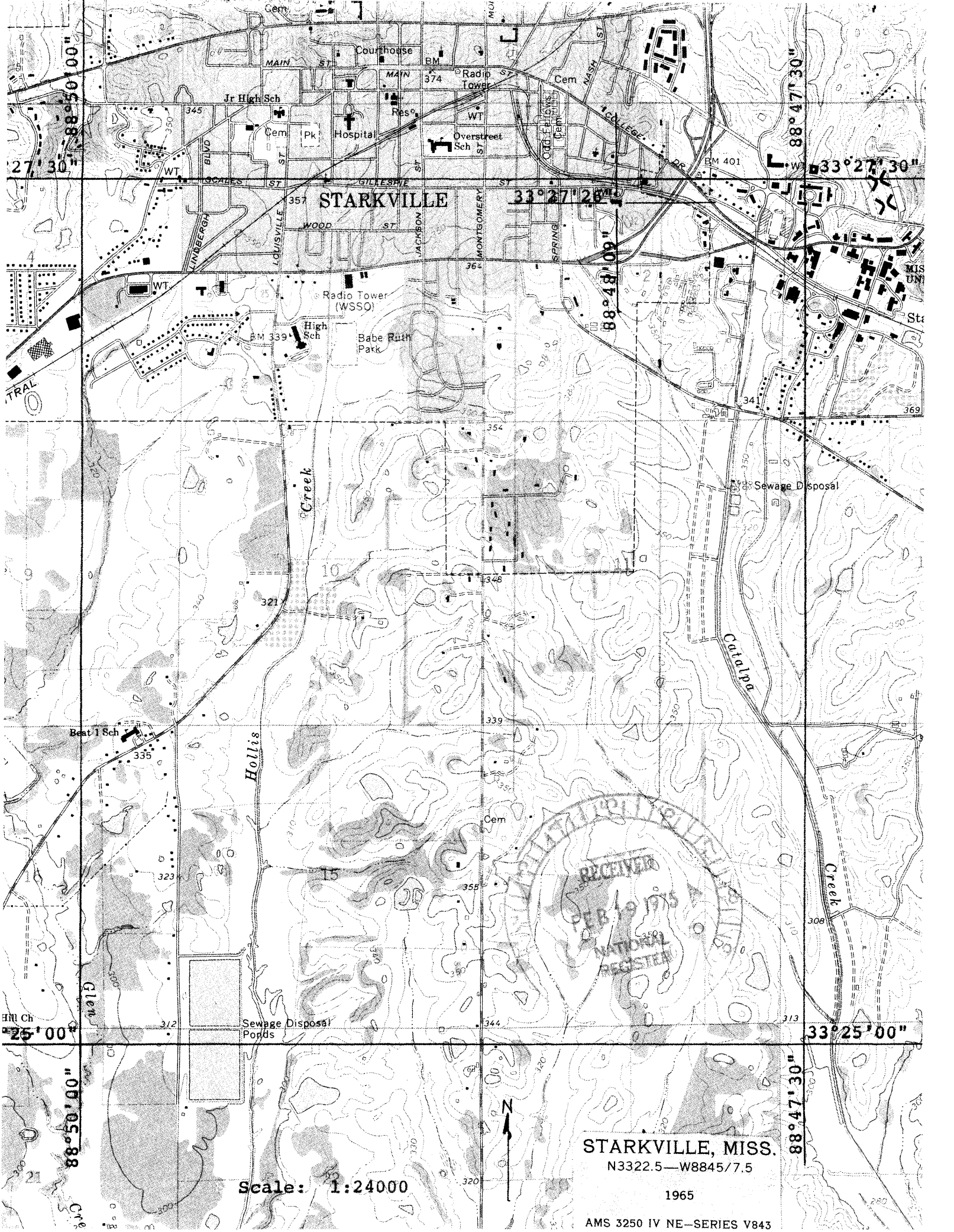
9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File.  
Oktibbeha County. "Stone Cotton Mill."

Mississippi State Building Commission and Mississippi State University.  
"Report on Mississippi State University, Physical Facilities." Building Commission of the State of Mississippi and Participating Colleges. Reports on Physical Facilities, Mississippi Colleges: Public and Private Institutions, 1967-68.

Starkville, Mississippi. Mitchell Memorial Library. Mississippi State University Archives.





88°50'00"  
33°27'30"

88°47'30"  
33°27'30"

# STARKVILLE

33°27'26"

88°48'09"

33°27'30"

88°50'00"  
33°25'00"

88°47'30"  
33°25'00"

STARKVILLE, MISS.  
N3322.5—W8845/7.5

Scale: 1:24000

1965

AMS 3250 IV NE—SERIES V843





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

**1. NAME**

COMMON

E. E. Cooley Building

AND/OR HISTORIC

John M. Stone Cotton Mill

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

APR 29 1975

**2. LOCATION**

STATE

Mississippi

COUNTY

Oktibbeha

TOWN

Starkville

STREET AND NUMBER

Gillespie Street

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Mississippi Department of  
Archives and History

DATE

February, 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

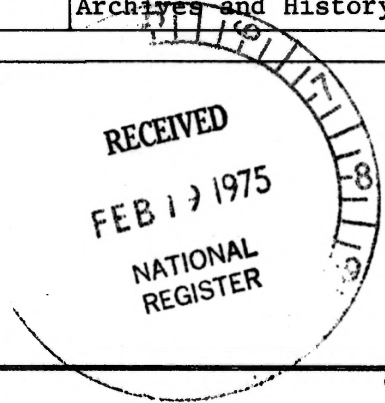
Mississippi Department of  
Archives and History

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

General facade view, looking southwest

#192





LEE COOLE BUILDING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

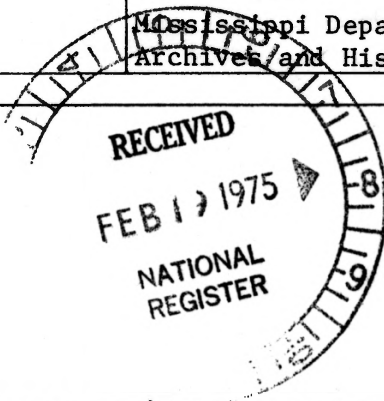
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
E. E. Cooley Building	John M. Stone Cotton Mill	APR 29 1975
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Mississippi 39759	Oktibbeha	Starkville
STREET AND NUMBER		
Gillespie Street		

<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Mississippi Department of Archives and History	1974	Mississippi Department of Archives and History

<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Water tower detail, looking southwest



#292