

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received DEC 19 1984

date entered JAN 18 1985

1. Name

historic Hotel Chester

and/or common Stark Hotel

2. Location

street & number 217, ~~219, 221, 223~~ East Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Starkville N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Oktibbeha code 105 AH 107

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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 Pryor Spencer Bailey, III

street & number 521 University Drive

city, town Starkville N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk, Oktibbeha County Court House

street & number Main Street

city, town Starkville state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stark Hotel building is a three-story brick structure which faces south on a 1/3-acre corner lot in the central business district of Starkville, Mississippi. Completed in 1925, the Stark Hotel utilizes decorative components which were popularized by the 1920's Spanish Colonial Revival structures of South Florida, notably Palm Beach and Coral Gables. The ground floor of the building houses four retail units; the upper floors, L-shaped in configuration and with central hallways, are subdivided into sleeping quarters. A brick chimney and a one story kitchen wing punctuate the rear elevation of the building. The structure has a flat roof; however, the street elevations are crowned by a spanish clay tile hip roof which extends approximately four feet above the flat roof. The building structural system consists of load-bearing perimeter walls and interior columns with wood joists and rafters.

The principal facade of the building is one hundred and eight feet long and faces Main Street. The symmetrical facade consists of a centralized, parapeted entrance elevation flanked by barrel-tile roofed wings. The dependencies project slightly from the central portion of the facade. With two storefronts on each side of the centralized hotel entrance, the formal organization of the facade reinforces the prominence of the hotel entrance. The materials of the ground-floor principal facade include a stucco base and painted brick; plate-glass display windows with divided-light transoms; and metal, canvas and wood-shingle awnings. The materials of the upper two floors of the principal facade include buff-colored brick, wood single-hung windows (6/1) with painted cast-stone sills and Spanish clay-tile roofing. The windows of the upper floors are grouped on each floor as follows: three individual windows above the central entrance. The central windows are flanked by three windows, side by side. The projecting dependencies feature a pair of two windows, side by side. A band of decorative brickwork separates the ground floor from the upper floors; a similar band of decorative brickwork terminates the upper level brickwork. Painted terra cotta decoration surrounds the primary building entrance. Additional terra cotta is employed above the primary entrance in the form of a panel below the third-floor window. A decorative terra cotta pediment crowns the third-floor window above the primary building entrance and reinforces the prominence of the hotel entrance. Flemish-bond brickwork decorates the central parapet of the principal facade.

The original physical appearance of the storefronts of the principal facade has been cosmetically altered to include contemporary awnings, projecting signage above the storefronts and aluminum/glass entrance doors. Many of the divided-light transoms have been replaced with plywood or disfigured by the installation of window air-conditioning units. The uniformity of the facade has been weakened by the variety of colors applied to the brickwork of the individual storefronts. The original physical appearance of the upper floors is largely intact; some deterioration is evident in the wood sash but the overall integrity of the facade is significant.

continued

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

JAN 18 1966

Hotel Chester, Oktibbeha County,  
Mississippi

CONTINUATION SHEET

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7 - DESCRIPTION

The secondary facade of the building faces Jackson Street and is approximately sixty-eight feet long. Asymmetrical in composition, the secondary facade fenestration mirrors interior functions and avoids formal pretensions. The stucco base and bands of decorative brickwork of the principal facade are continued on the secondary facade. Two building entrances are located on the secondary facade and upper floor windows match the configuration of the windows of the principal facade. Painted brickwork on the ground floor weakens the uniformity of the facade; however, the overall integrity of the facade is significant.

The building's first-floor interior is characterized by original plaster walls and ceilings with minimal stylized decorative elements. The original terrazzo floor of the hotel lobby is intact; however, the remaining floor-finish materials are contemporary. New partitions consisting of wood framing and gypsum board have subdivided many of the original spaces of the first floor. A simple plaster cove molding assembly delineates the junction of wall to ceiling in the first floor spaces. No original light fixtures or building accessories remain; new light fixtures consist of utilitarian fluorescent fixtures. Two handsome terra cotta brackets decorate the interior columns of the original hotel lobby; however, none of the original lobby millwork remains intact. With the exception of the first tier of steps, the original stairway is intact. The stairway is simple in its use of decorative elements but stands as an important element of the original conception.

The building's upper floor interiors are very simple and display no significant original decorative elements. Much of the original plaster has been removed or covered with gypsum board and no original floor finishes remain intact. The arrangement of the upper floor rooms consists of pairs of sleeping quarters which share common bathrooms. Original ceramic tile remains in some bathrooms; however, water damage and settlement have seriously damaged the remaining ceramic tile.

The integrity of the original structure and facades of the Stark Hotel is significant. Alterations to the exterior of the building have been limited to cosmetic applications of paint, the addition of inappropriate awnings and the removal of some of the transom sash. The exterior decoration of the building is simple in conception and execution; however, the proportions of the structure are elegant. Although the interior of the building has been significantly altered, enough of the original fabric remains to provide clues to its original configuration.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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)

Arch: N.W. Overstreet, Jackson, MS

Specific dates 1925 Builder/Architect Blder: D.D. Thomas & Son, Memphis, TN

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hotel Chester (Stark Hotel), constructed in 1925, acts as the eastern terminus of Starkville's historic central business district. As the largest single structure in the original business district, the Spanish Colonial Revival building represents an architecturally ambitious undertaking and is a highly significant local landmark. Designed by N.W. Overstreet,\*the elegantly proportioned building is a longstanding source of community pride.

The Hotel Chester (Stark Hotel) was fostered and financed by Starkville citizens with the Chamber of Commerce acting as the organizing body. The Starkville Hotel Corporation purchased the site of the hotel on January 30, 1924 and constructed the building at a cost of \$80,000. Furnishings and equipment amounted to approximately \$15,000. Named for Chester Jarnigan, President of the Oktibbeha County Chamber of Commerce, the hotel was constructed by D. D. Thomas & Son; a Memphis contractor. Mr. A. H. Alvis of Jackson, Mississippi was the initial lessee of the property; Mr. Alvis also operated the Heidelberg in Jackson, the Alvis in Baton Rouge, the Yarbrough in Huntsville and the Gordon in Albany, Georgia.

The building was known as the Hotel Chester until 1940 when the name was changed to the Stark Hotel. Named in honor of John Stark, a hero of the American Revolution, the building is known today as the Stark Hotel.

The Stark Hotel remained the property of the Starkville Hotel Corporation until July 21, 1965. John Curtis Page purchased the building in 1965 and converted the structure to business offices on the ground floor and student apartments on the upper floors. On December 3, 1969, Citizens Realty Company purchased the property. The building was sold again on July 2, 1976 to F. Harrell Josey. The most recent transaction involving the building occurred on May 8, 1984 when the property was sold to Pryor Spencer Bailey, III. The current use of the building is for retail units on the ground floor and student apartments on the upper floors.

\*Among the notable Mississippi buildings attributed to N. W. Overstreet are the Peoples Bank Building (originally the Standard Life Building, designed with A. Hays Town), the Heber Ladner Building, the Lamar Life Building (with Sanguinet, Staats and Hedrick of Fort Worth), and Bailey Junior High School (with A. Hays Town), all of which are located in the capital city, Jackson.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 160, page 65; Deed Book 374, page 653; Deed Book 444, page 474; Deed Book 519, page 31; Deed Book 634, page 447.

"New Hotel A Beautiful and Modern Structure". The Starkville (MS) News, April 10, 1925.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .30 acre

Quadrangle name Starkville, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Commence with the intersection of the North Right-Of-Way of Main Street with the West Right-Of-Way of North Jackson Street and use as the Point of Beginning.  
(continued on attached sheet)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

state	N/A	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger A. Pryor, Project Architect

organization Dean/Dale and Dean Architects

date July 9, 1984

street & number 618 2nd Avenue, South

telephone 601/327-9558

city or town Columbus

state MS 39701

## 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'Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 3, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

1/18/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JUN 18 1985

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Hotel Chester, Oktibbeha County,  
Mississippi

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Thence run North along the West Right-of-Way of North Jackson Street a distance of 120 feet to the Southeast Corner of Lot 12, Block 5 of the City of Starkville, Mississippi; thence run West along the South boundary of Lot 12 and extension thereof parallel to the North Right-of-Way of Main Street a distance of 109 feet to a point located 4 feet West of the Southwest Corner of Lot 12; thence run South along the East boundary of Lot 10 parallel to the West Right-of-Way of North Jackson Street a distance of 120 feet to the Southeast Corner of Lot 10; thence run East along the North Right-of-Way of Main Street a distance of 109 feet to the point of beginning.



Hotel Chester, 217-223 East Main Street,  
view to north (front elevation)  
Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History  
R. A. Pryor  
June, 1984  
Photo 1 of 6



Hotel Chester, 217-223 East Main Street,  
view to north (front elevation)  
Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

R. A. Pryor

June, 1984

Photo 2 of 6



Hotel Chester, 217-223 East Main Street,  
view to northeast (front elevation)  
Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

R. A. Pryor

June, 1984

Photo 3 of 6



Hotel Chester, 217-223 East Main Street,  
view to west (side elevation)

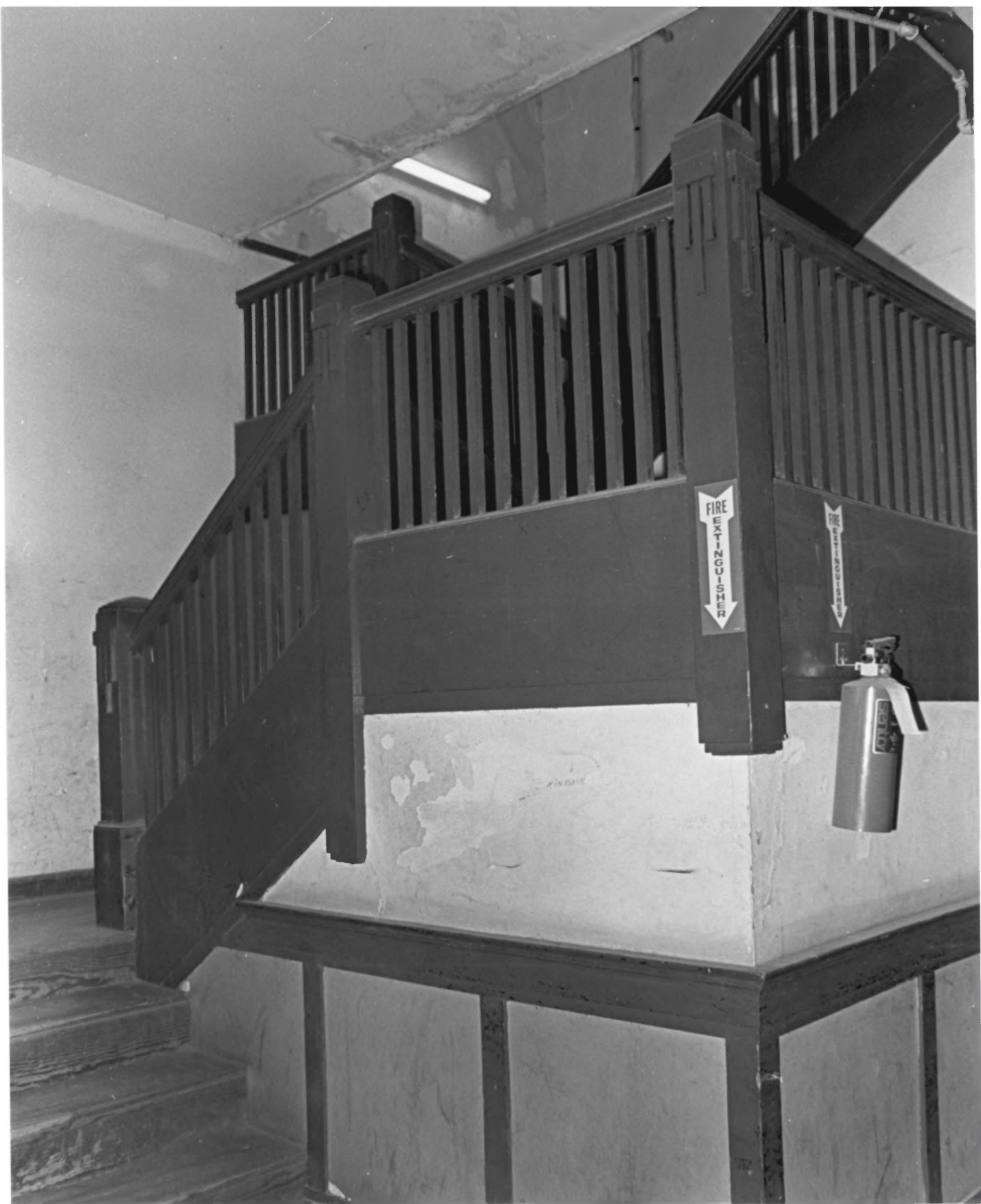
Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives

and History

R. A. Pryor

July, 1984

Photo 4 of 6



FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER

FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER

Hotel Chester, 217-223 East Main Street,  
staircase

Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

R. A. Pryor

June, 1984

Photo 5 of 6



Hotel Chester, 217-223 East Main Street,  
Terra Cotta Bracket Detail  
Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

R. A. Pryor

June, 1984

Photo 6 of 6