FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received FEB 2 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Robert L. Covington House

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number 240 South Extension Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hazlehurst NA vicinity of [redacted]

state Mississippi code 28 county Copiah code 29

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	NA in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Gwendolyn B. Cragon

street & number 4074 Eastwood Drive

city, town Jackson NA vicinity of state Mississippi 39211

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Copiah County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Hazlehurst state Mississippi 39083

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date NA
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in downtown Hazlehurst on the western side of South Extension Street, the Robert L. Covington House is a two-story frame Colonial Revival residence with truncated hipped roof surmounted by an open walk railed by a balustrade of square newels and rectangular-sectioned balusters. The roof is pierced by three interior chimneys with the easternmost two chimneys finished in the same rock-faced cement blocks as the foundation of the house. The easterly facade is a symmetrical five-bay composition fronted by a full-width gallery with elliptical recess defining the center-bay entrance doorway. Projecting in front of the gallery, further sheltering the three central bays, is a giant-order portico that extends in a semi-circle to accentuate the entrance doorway. The interplay of the elliptical recess of the gallery and the semi-circular projection of the portico increases the architectural interest of the facade. The portico, which has a full molded and dentiled entablature with modillioned cornice, is supported by fluted Ionic columns echoed on the front wall of the house by pilasters. The portico roof is railed by a balustrade composed of paneled pedestals linked by a railing of open panels infilled by horizontal, vertical, and diagonal boards appearing to radiate from a central axis. The one-story gallery features a full molded and dentiled entablature supported by unfluted Ionic columns. The gallery roof is railed by a balustrade of square newels and turned balusters. Attached to the northern side elevation of the house, which is enlivened by a gabled bay, is a porte cochere with columns and roof railing detailed like the gallery. Extending from the southern side elevation, which also features a gabled bay, is a two-story 1920's addition which contains a first-story sun porch and second-story sleeping porch. Extending from the rear, or westerly elevation, is a one-story gabled wing that houses the original kitchen. Almost all windows of the house are filled with one-over-one double-hung sash, but, on the northern elevation, a Palladian window lights the parlor and a stained glass window lights the stairway landing. The entrance doorway is filled with double-leaf glazed doors set within sidelights and a leaded glass transom. The main entrance doorway is echoed on the second-story level by a simpler doorway that provides access from the gallery roof to the second-story hallway.

The interior plan of the house is irregular. An L-shaped hallway is accessed from both the entrance doorway and the doorway leading from the port cochere. All major downstairs rooms feature window and door surrounds with simply molded cornices, molded and fielded panels beneath the windows, doors with nine molded and fielded panels, bases with two fascia, foliate plaster ceiling centerpieces, parquet floors, and well detailed Colonial Revival mantel pieces. The parlor is further enriched by a plaster cornice and frieze and a mantel piece with decorated ceramic tiles. Screens of Ionic columns and pilasters atop paneled pedestals visually separate the front hallway from the library to the south and the stair hallway to the west. The staircase, which features square newels and turned balusters, is entered by a short flight to an intermediate landing where it makes a quarter turn to continue in a northerly direction to an intermediate landing with window seat. From the landing, the staircase continues in a southerly direction to its termination in the second-story hallway. Behind the stair hall and dining room is a two-story service corridor that contains a secondary staircase with plainer square newels and turned balusters that runs from north to south in a single straight flight. The second-story bedrooms are only slightly more plainly trimmed than the first-story rooms. The interior integrity is outstanding and includes the survival of original hardware, bathroom fixtures, and lighting devices.

To the southwest of the house is a one-story, original, hipped-roof carriage house with later shed addition.

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1907 **Builder/Architect** Barber and Kluttz, Knoxville, Tennessee

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert L. Covington House represents the most extravagant expression of Colonial Revival architecture in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. The house derives added significance from its well documented construction, its outstanding exterior and interior integrity, and its long history of family ownership. The house was designed by the architectural firm of Barber and Kluttz of Knoxville, Tennessee, and was constructed C. C. Hartwell Company, Ltd., Contractors and Engineers, of Brookhaven, Mississippi. Although the original plans and specifications, which have remained in the house, are undated, the present owner has documented 1907 as the construction date. A family photograph showing the house under construction is undated, but a photograph dated 1908 depicts the house completed with the Covington family in residence. A comparison of the plans and specifications with the house as it exists today attests to its outstanding integrity. The millwork of the dining room and the parlor, which represented the popular French taste of the decade in its finishes and furnishings, is still painted white as specified by the architect. The mahogany of the library and the L-shaped hallway, as well as the stained pine of the service hallway, survives unpainted. Almost all original lighting devices remain, including the original wall sconces of the library and dining room. The original furnishings, though no longer in the house, are well documented by old photographs of the interior and are still the property of the present owner. The only change made to the house by the Covington family was the construction in the 1920's of a two-story southern addition housing a first-story sun porch and a second-story sleeping porch. The respect that the family has for the house is evidenced in the careful maintenance of the unusually well detailed entrance and porte-cochere stair treads, which are composed of shaped wooden slats that require constant attention and frequent replacement, and, stored in the attic, is the porch balustrade that was removed from construction of the 1920's two-story addition. Covington family members no longer reside in the house, but they beautifully maintain the property as a residential rental residence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Gwendolyn Cragon. Robert L. Covington Papers.

Miller, Mary W., consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation. Inspection of Robert L. Covington House, November 28, 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.98 acres

Quadrangle name Hazlehurst, Miss. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	746275	352795
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification North ½ and East ½ of Lot 51, Rogers Plat, City of Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi. See enclosed xerox of survey with nominated property outlined in red.

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

state	code	county	code
NA			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/Preservation Consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation **date** December 1, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 1761 **telephone** (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez **state** Mississippi 39120

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P. Peal

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 1/27/84

For HCRS use only

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

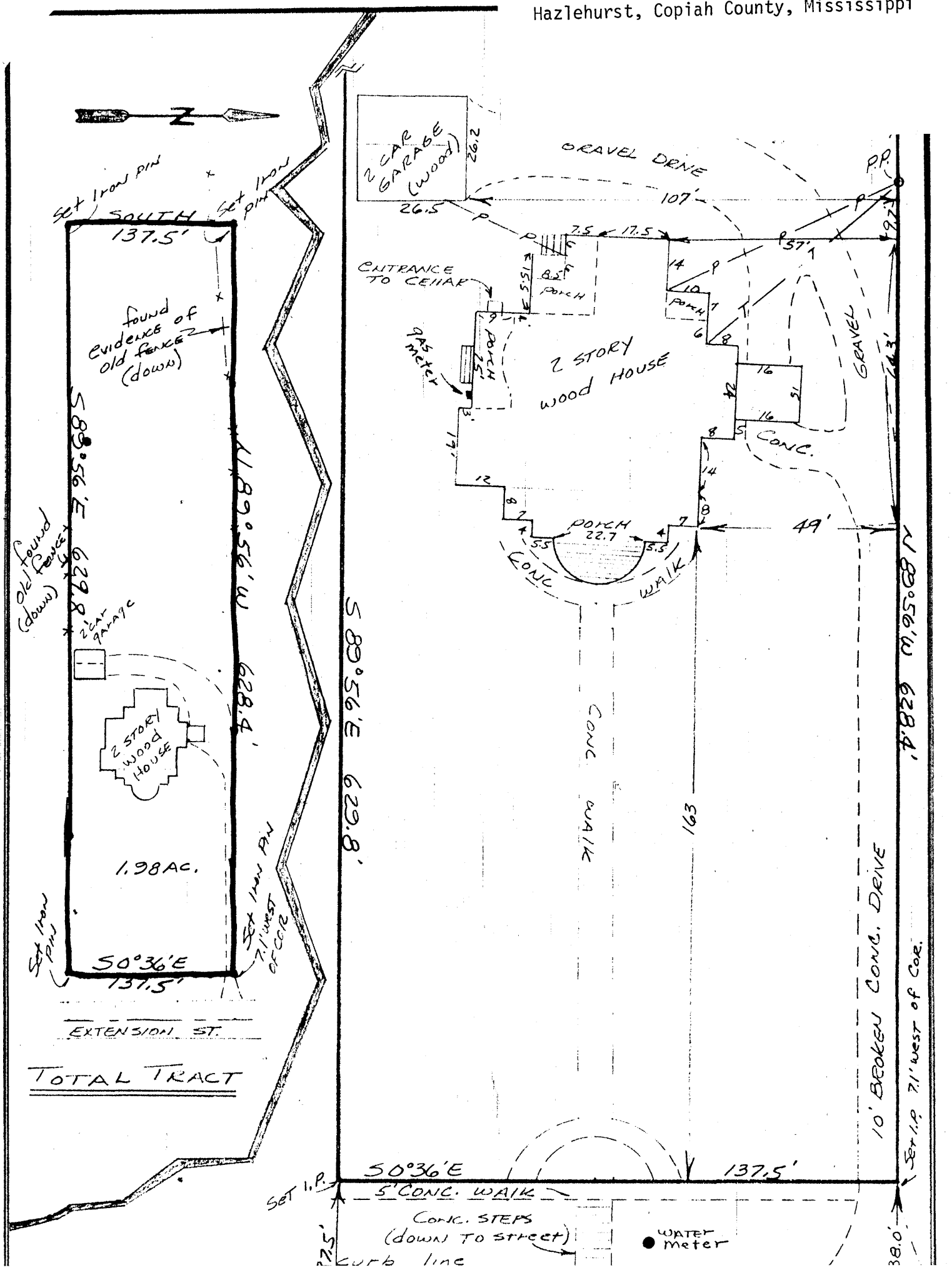
Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register **date** 3/1/84

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

ROBERT L. COVINGTON HOUSE
Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi



ROBERT L. COVINGTON HOUSE
Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi

Looking southwesterly, the easterly facade of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, November 1983.

Photo 1 of 4

ROBERT L. COVINGTON HOUSE
Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi

Looking northwesterly, the parlor of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, November 1983.

Photo 2 of 4

ROBERT L. COVINGTON HOUSE
Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi

Looking northwesterly, the library of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,

Photo 3 of 4

ROBERT L. COVINGTON HOUSE
Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi

Looking northwesterly, the principal staircase of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, November 1983

Photo 4 of 4