

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 28 1987

date entered MAY 29 1987

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

1. Name

historic Old Hattiesburg High School

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 846 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hattiesburg N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Forrest code 035

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational (offices) <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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" 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 Hattiesburg Municipal Separate School District

street & number 846 Main Street

city, town Hattiesburg N/A vicinity of state Mississippi 39401

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 630 Main St.

city, town Hattiesburg state MS 39401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Hattiesburg High School is a large brick building which consists of a two and one-half story rear wing which rests on a raised basement and dates from 1911 and a four and one-half story main building which dates from 1921.

The 1911 building is flat roofed and constructed of tan brick. The windows on both floors have double hung sash and are grouped in pairs. This section of the building exhibits no ornamentation.

The main building was built in 1921 from designs in the Jacobethan Style by the architect, Robert E. Lee. Constructed of red brick, the building features cast stone facings, belt courses, and cornices. All of the windows in this section have nine-over-nine double-hung sash and are grouped in pairs or triads. The building is divided into three blocks. The central block is four stories tall with a steep gable roof. The outer blocks are only three stories tall with tall parapets. Towers accent the junctures between the 1921 three story blocks and the 1911 building and between the lower, outer blocks with the tall center section of the 1921 structure.

The center block is three bays wide. Each bay contains a triad of double-hung windows on each floor except for the ground floor center bay which features a transomed and sidelighted entrance which is protected by a segmentally-arched porch. The windows of the third and fourth floors are united by panels of cast stone. Above the cornice the center bay is crenellated. The outer bays rise into steep gables which are ornamented with cast-stone gable peaks.

The three-story wings are less elaborately decorated. They lack gables, crenellations and the paneling between the windows. The towers between the 1911 and 1921 buildings are also simply treated. However, the towers that emphasize the junctures of the three blocks of the more recent building are highly decorated. They are each entered through a segmentally-arched, gabled porch, one of which is labeled "Girls," the other, "Boys." The windows of the towers' third and fourth floors are united by panels in the manner of the center block in addition to which they are framed by quoins. The tall parapets which crown these towers are pierced by triads of small arched windows.

The highly intact interior, features dark-stained woodwork and pressed metal ceilings.

# 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 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)

**Specific dates** 1911, 1921      **Builder/Architect** Robert E. Lee of Hattiesburg, Mississippi

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Old Hattiesburg High School is architecturally significant in the history of the "Hub City" because it is the largest and most sophisticated example of the Jacobethan Style in the city and is the only known design in the style by Robert E. Lee. Lee was Forrest County's foremost architect of the early twentieth century and is, perhaps, better known for his Neo-classical designs for Hattiesburg's 1923 City Hall, 1920 Masonic Temple, and 1907 I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 27. He was also responsible for the designs of the 1907 Ross Building in the Chicago Commercial Style and a 1927 Mission Style school in Brooklyn, Mississippi.

Although widely used in turn-of-the-century American residential design, the Jacobethan Style made its most profound impact upon educational buildings of the period. The warm red brick walls set off by pale facings and the lively towered and gabled silhouettes which are characteristic of the style presented a "cheerful" alternative to the glacial Neo-classical and somber Collegiate Gothic Styles which were also considered appropriate for academic buildings. (Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780. [Cambridge: M.I.T. Press 1976], p. 177). The pervasive popularity of the Jacobethan Style is reflected in Mississippi by such widely scattered examples as the 1925 Old Central High School in Jackson (National Register 1976), the 1927 Starkville Middle School (National Register 1982) and the Old Ocean Springs High School which dates from 1927. Lee's 1921 design for the Hattiesburg High School is not only older than the above examples, it also exceeds them in its masterly-handled complex massing and the articulation and unification of its elevations accomplished through its cast stone ornamentation.

The Old Hattiesburg High School currently serves as office space for the Board of Education. It was the third school building erected on the site. The first wooden school burned in 1911 and was replaced by a two-story, tan, brick building originally covered by a mansard roof. This roof was removed in 1921 when the present Jacobethan Style building was added to the east of the 1911 structure.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Berggren, Brian N. and Tomás R. Blackwell. Inspection of Old Hattiesburg High School, October, 1986.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. one acre

Quadrangle name Hattiesburg, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UTM References**

A 

1	6
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2	8	1	5	8	0
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3	4	6	8	1	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** 142 feet off of the Northwest side of Lot 1 and all of Lots 2, 3, and 4 (less parts sold to Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce and First Presbyterian Church), Block 167, Parcel 35-144-8-1, as shown on the Crittenden Survey of the City of Hattiesburg, Forrest County.

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

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

name/title Brian N. Berggren, Architectural Historian  
Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History date December 31, 1986

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state Mississippi 39205

# 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 April 21, 1987

**For NPS use only**

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

Entered in the  
National Register

James M. McPherson date 5-29-87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



Old Hattiesburg High School

Northeast facade, view towards southwest

Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

Brian Berggren

October, 1986

*Photo 1 of 5*

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Old Hattiesburg High School

Northeast facade (boys entrance), view to-  
wards southwest

Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

Brian Berggren

October, 1986

*photo 2 of 5*





Old Hattiesburg High School

Northeast facade (boys entrance), view to-  
wards southwest

Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

Brian Berggren

October, 1986

*Photo 3 of 5*



Old Hattiesburg High School

Northeast facade and northwest elevation,  
oblique view towards south

Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

Brian Berggren

October, 1986

*photo 4 of 5*



Old Hattiesburg High School

Southwest and southeast elevations, oblique  
view towards north

Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

Brian Berggren

October, 1986

*photo 5 of 5*

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