United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Holly Springs (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Sites)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Corporate limits of Holly Springs 1975 N/A not for publication

city, town Holly Springs N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Marshall code 93

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Holly Springs state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1979-1980 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7 Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Holly Springs (pop. 7,000) is located in central Marshall County on the Pontotoc Ridge, an elevated and extended range of tablelands in the rolling highlands of North Mississippi. It lies forty miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, and twenty-eight miles north of Oxford. The vast pine timber reserves of the Holly Springs National Forest extend southward and eastward from the town into neighboring Lafayette and Benton counties. To the north and west of Holly Springs stretch the once-fertile yellow loam farmlands of rural Marshall County.

Since 1837, when the public square was laid out and Holly Springs was selected as the seat of Marshall County, the Courthouse Square has served as the commercial, political, social and visual center of the community. It is dominated by the three-story Italianate courthouse which was built in 1870-1872 to replace the original courthouse, burned by Union troops during the Civil War. Regular rows of late-nineteenth-century brick and cast-iron storefronts frame the square. The Marshall County Courthouse, together with the surrounding fifty-nine commercial and institutional buildings, was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The major residential streets of Holly Springs extend outward from the well-defined grid plan of the central business district. Holly, linden, magnolia, mimosa and pine trees line the streets, adding a profusion of color to the townscape. Cast-iron fences, many manufactured by the Jones-McIlwain Foundry in Holly Springs before the Civil War, and boxwood hedges encircle the expansive yards of the town's older homes. Little has changed since one of the state's most respected historians observed that:

> Most of the residences are surrounded by spacious grounds, with well-kept lawns, adorned with a profusion of shrubbery and flowers, and with vegetable gardens attached. The streets of the city are broad and lined with a wealth of fine shade trees. During the period of the year when the city's foliage and flowers are at their best, the city is well-deserving of its name, "The City of Flowers" (Rowland, Mississippi, [Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907], p. 876).

Behind the thick foliage of the city's residential streets stand neat one- and two-story detached houses. On the town's major east-west axes, Chulahoma, Salem and Van Dorn avenues, the houses are set far back from the streets on large lots. In contrast, the north-south axes, Craft, Memphis and Randolph streets, are lined with more closely-spaced homes, as is also the case on the side streets which link the major arteries.

The historic resources of Holly Springs are evenly distributed throughout the four proposed historic districts. Within each area, there exists a wide variety of architectural styles ranging from folk houses to Grecian mansions to Queen Anne cottages. Modestly scaled vernacular designs predominate, creating a pleasing backdrop for the town's small but striking collection of high-style nineteenth-century residences. Reflective of the community's pride in its resources, the buildings located within the boundaries of the four proposed historic districts are exceptionally well-preserved, many carefully restored inside and out to their original construction.

7 - DESCRIPTION

Architectural development of Holly Springs reflects the three major periods of the community's growth: the pre-Civil War boom years (1837-1861); the economically depressed years from the Reconstruction era to the turn-of-the-century (1865-1899); and the twentieth century. The earliest period, which spans those halcyon days when Marshall County was one of the leaders in the state's bustling cotton-producing economy, is the most conspicious. Throughout the community, particularly in the proposed Southwest and East Holly Springs Historic Districts, the Greek Revival influence is most dominant. Built of wood or brick manufactured from the rich red native clay, local interpretations of the Grecian style range from modest, single-story and raised-basement cottages to grand mansions with monumental porticos with cast-iron Corinthian columns. In addition, a notable collection of Gothic Revival and Italianate residences reflects the impact of the Picturesque influence on local tastes in the late 1850s.

The Civil War, the demise of the slave-labor economy and the scourge of yellow fever dealt decisive blows to the economic and architectural development of Holly Springs. As a visitor to Holly Springs observed in 1898:

> It is one of the oldest towns in the state and has been one of the most aristocratic and wealthy. It is nicely laid off in a large square around the courthouse. The sidewalks are broad with broader awnings. The storehouses were mostly built before the war and are long, dark and narrow, with low ceilings. The show windows perhaps were elegant years ago but are not up-to-date. Business did not seem rushing. A load of sickly-looking water melons lined up in the shade beside the courthouse fence was all the country produce we saw for sale.
>
> The dwelling houses were an interesting study. They are of many kinds and colors. Now and then one of the modern build and freshly painted [sic]. There are some that date back over a half century. Some are three stories high, huge columns running from bottom to the entire height. They stand back from the street, half hidden either by native trees or those planted by hands long ago. These stately houses are monuments of days of wealth that will not be again when hired servants came at back [sic] and call but whose chief duty was to stand and wait (The South Reporter, September 15, 1898).

In contrast to the richness and variety of the town's pre-Civil War architecture, there exists a dearth of late-nineteenth-century high-style design. With only a few exceptions, new construction between 1865 and 1899 was limited to modest, single-story, frame, Italianate and Queen Anne cottages, many of which survive with their original millwork intact.

7 - DESCRIPTION

During this period, clusters of tiny frame and board-and-batten cottages were built throughout Holly Springs by and for the community's black residents. Still largely occupied by blacks, who comprise approximately sixty percent of the town's population, the design of these rural vernacular cottages changed little between the mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Within the boundaries of the proposed historic districts, as in rural Marshall County, the shotgun and saddlebag forms predominate.

The early-twentieth century was marked by the construction of several two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne homes and the remodeling of many older structures with Neoclassical and Georgian Revival details. However, the depressed economy of the town is best illustrated by the many modest bungalows built between 1915 and 1930. At the same time, numerous one-and-one-half-story pyramidal roof frame homes, borrowed from the rural vernacular tradition of the region, were also being built.

Two major green spaces complement the verdant streetscapes of this small town. Three blocks southeast of the Courthouse Square is the picturesque Hillcrest Cemetery, notable for its fine collection of cast-iron fences manufactured by the Jones-McIlwain Foundry. At Spring Hollow Park, two blocks north of the Square, chudzu-covered hardwood trees have replaced the holly trees which once grew around the spring. North of the central business district, the campuses of the Mississippi Industrial College (listed on the National Register in 1980) and Rust College, two of the state's oldest black colleges, ease the transition between the town and rural landscapes.

Industries brought to the city under the aegis of the "Balance Agriculture With Industry" program in the early 1940s are located well outside the center of town. The last vestiges of the prosperous cotton industry and the great commerce and transportation networks it spawned and supported are concentrated around Van Dorn Avenue and Compress Street in the proposed Depot-Compress Historic District.

The Holly Springs Multiple Resource nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is based on a comprehensive survey of 650 buildings inventoried in 1979 and 1980 by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Marshall County Historical Society. From that survey, four historic districts containing a total of 308 buildings were identified. Six properties located outside the boundaries of the proposed districts are listed individually within the multiple resource area, which also contains two historic districts and one archaeological site listed on the National Register. Original uses of the nominated buildings fall into the following categories: residential, 279 properties; ecclesiastical, 5 properties; institutional, 18 properties; and commercial, 11 properties.

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	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	X education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	X transportation	
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	X politics/government	X other (specify) Black History	
		___ invention			

Specific dates N/A **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Holly Springs ranks as one of Mississippi's most architecturally and historically significant rural communities. The leading role Holly Springs played in the areas of agriculture, education, politics and transportation is preeminent in the history of pre-Civil War Mississippi. Today, the vigor and success of Holly Springs is seen in the richness and variety of its nationally recognized architectural resources. Although less conspicious, the continued accomplishments of Holly Springs during the postwar era and continuing well into the twentieth century are illustrated by an outstanding collection of period architecture and several sites important to black history, Reconstruction and the development of commerce and transportation in Mississippi.

Holly Springs is located on the site of a cotton plantation established in 1830 by Robert Burrell Alexander, a native of Virginia who purchased the land from the Chickasaw Indians. After the Treaty of Pontotoc (October 22, 1832) opened the area to full-scale settlement, the cession lands were divided into counties by the Mississippi legislature, which created Marshall County on February 9, 1836 (Rowland, History of Mississippi, p. 787). An infant settlement, which had been established two years earlier on Alexander's plantation near the springs, known variously as Clarendon, Paris and finally as Holly Springs, was selected as the seat of Marshall County. Proceeds from the sale of donated land paid for the cost of building a courthouse and jail on the public square in the center of the new community. Soon frame and brick commercial buildings lined the streets facing the square following a favored plan for a county seat in nineteenth-century Mississippi. Typically, the streets leading into the public square were residential in character.

Supported by a prosperous agricultural economy, Holly Springs developed rapidly into the leading community of north Mississippi. Despite the Panic of 1837 which devastated much of the nation, bankers, brokers and merchants prospered in Holly Springs. By 1840, forty lawyers served the town, along with myriad other professionals who had followed the planters into the area.

> Holly Springs, four years ago was a cotton plantation; now we number a population of 2,500 . . . our population consists not of adventurers who came to the South for the purpose of regaining a lost fortune, but of substantial men who brought their fortunes, and better still, their intelligence with them, and who believed they could enjoy in a substantial degree the advantages of cultivating the great staple commodity of the South and at the same time breathe the pure, healty, invigorating atmosphere, and they were not mistaken (Thomas Johnson, President, Franklin Female Institute, quoted in Carter, "Holly Springs: A Proud Struggle for Grace," p. 57).

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The agricultural prominence of Holly Springs burgeoned in the 1840s and early 1850s. In 1850, Marshall County led the state in the production of rye, oats, corn and potatoes. It ranked high in the cultivation of wheat, tobacco, rice and hay. In the hilly grazing areas, hogs, cattle, sheep and mules were raised. The agricultural economy of the county and the town reached its zenith, however, in the late 1850s, due largely to enormous increases in cotton production. In 1840, the county produced only 2,661 bales of cotton; in 1850, 32,775 bales; and in 1860, an astonishing 49,348 bales, "more than any similar-sized division of land anywhere in the world" (Stone, "Economic Development of Holly Springs," pp. 355-57). Moreover, the profit margin for cotton production grew as the prices paid for Marshall County cotton on the Memphis Exchange more than doubled between 1840 and 1850 (Stone, p. 361).

The spiraling growth of the county's agricultural economy demanded the development of improved transportation networks to facilitate the movement of goods from farm to market. Cotton was a bulky crop; moving it from Holly Springs to Memphis by mule and wagon was both cumbersome and expensive. In the late 1830s construction of the Memphis and La Grange Railroad, parallel to the Mississippi and Tennessee border, gave impetus to a plan to link Holly Springs with Memphis by rail (Wyatt, "The Depot," p. 1). In 1840, the leaders of Holly Springs petitioned the Mississippi legislature for a charter to build a nineteen-mile stretch of tracks from the town to the Memphis and La Grange line. A charter was granted to the Holly Springs and Stateline Railroad Company in Janaury of 1841 to build the new line, but because of financial difficulties, the plans had to be abandoned. As cotton production increased, so did the planters' dependence on the whims of the Memphis market. They inevitably turned to the New Orleans market in search of higher profits. Thus, plans to build a rail line from Holly Springs to New Orleans evolved, and in 1848, the Holly Springs Railroad Company was chartered (Stone, p. 353). It also failed, but served as the genesis of the Mississippi Central Railroad which, when it was completed in 1860, finally afforded the planters of Holly Springs the inexpensive and efficient trade route they long had sought.

A numer of flourishing albeit short-lived industries contributed to the bustling pre-Civil War economy of Holly Springs. The Holly Springs Foundry produced plows used throughout northern Mississippi (Stone, p. 359). Several carriage and wagon shops, including the Holly Springs Coach Factory, prospered (Stone, p. 358). Four tanneries provided leather for the town's three boot and shoe factories (Stone, p. 357). The county ranked fifth in the state in cotton textile production, the area's leading industry in the 1850s (Stone, p. 359).

Convenient stage connections and reliable train schedules, as well as the location of Holly Springs on a high plateau far from the river, made the town a popular summer resort. The highly touted curative powers of its springs, three elegant hotels and a race track added greatly to its appeal (DeBows Review, July, 1859, p. 117). While one visitor lamented that "to leave Holly Springs, the place of the abode of beauty, taste, intellect and modesty, is hard;" others found pleasure in "visiting all the tenants of vice and dissipation, drinking, gambling, swearing and committing other acts that would disgrace the very friends of hell" (Stone, pp. 353-54).

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Nowhere is the prosperity of those halcyon days better documented than in the fine homes built in Holly Springs during the two decades before the Civil War. Here, as in other Mississippi towns which reached the peak of their prosperity before the Civil War, the Greek Revival influence is most conspicious. Interpretations of the Grecian style reflect the influence of local architects and contractors and individual taste, as well as the line of architectural details manufactured by the Jones-McIlwain Foundry. Most often built of wood, these homes are characterized by distinctive entrances framed by sidelights and transoms. Where columns, piers or pilasters are employed, the Tuscan order predominates (#'s 117, 187, 205).

Five major stylistic variations dominate the outstanding collection of Greek Revival architecture in Holly Springs. The oldest homes, log houses built in the 1830s and remodeled in the early 1840s, are single-story residences characterized by an undercut gallery supported by attenuated Tuscan piers (#'s 48, 51). Throughout the 1840s and 1850s, the single-story or raised basement cottage with a five-bay facade punctuated by a single-bay pedimented portico enjoyed the greatest popularity (#'s 36, 168, 228, 147). During the same period, a number of two-story frame homes with single-bay porticos supported by tall Tuscan piers were also constructed (#'s 138, 297).

The articulation of the Grecian vocabulary in Holly Springs reached its zenith between 1855 and 1860 in the design of three of the town's finest extant high-style residences: Oakleigh (#91), Montrose (#110) and Walter Place (#50). Each of these two-story brick homes features a monumental tetrastyle pedimented portico with a lunette window set in the tympanum. Each is embellished with details manufactured by the Jones-McIlwain Iron Works, including cast-iron Corinthian columns, richly embossed lintels and ornate balconies. Similar in form, but less architecturally ambitious, are Fleur-de-Lis (#20), Herndon (#126) and the Methodist Parsonage (#185).

Holly Springs architect Spires Bolling's use of the octagon contributed greatly to the richness and variety of the town's collection of Greek Revival architecture. White Pillars (#234), Finley Place (#128) and the Bolling-Gatewood House (#209) are distinguished by unique octagonal columns. Bolling left his signature on Walter Place (#50) in his design for the symmetrical, crenelated octagonal towers which flank the facade of the building.

Although the Grecian style clearly dominated the early residential development of Holly Springs, the influence of the Picturesque Movement left its own indelible mark on the community. The small collection of exquisite Gothic Revival residential and ecclesiastical buildings is considered to be the best in the state. Cedarhurst (#103), the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's secretary, Sherwood Bonner, and The Magnolias (#1) are richly embellished with arcaded galleries manufactured by the Jones-McIlwain Iron Works. In contrast, Airliewood (#109), though similar in plan and massing to Cedarhurst, is fortified with a crenelated gallery and porte-cochere. Christ Episcopal

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Church (#199), one of the state's most outstanding ecclesiastical Gothic Revival structure is distinguished by its finely crafted wooden tower enriched with buttresses, pinnacles and an octagonal belfry and spire.

The brief period of extraordinary prosperity was brought to an abrupt end by the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The town changed hands some fifty-nine times as Confederate and Union troops jockeyed for position when the Union army pushed southward (Carter, p. 64). No major battles were fought in or near Holly Springs. Instead, the town served as a hospital and supply center for both Union and Confederate troops. On December 20, 1862, Holly Springs was catapulted into the limelight by General Earl Van Dorn's daring raid on the vast stockpile of Union supplies stored at the depot and in public buildings throughout the town. Van Dorn and his men plundered and burned between two and four million dollars worth of supplies and cotton, thus effectively delaying General Grant's long-planned Vicksburg Campaign (Deupree, p. 58).

The Civil War left Holly Springs in a state of social, political and economic upheaval. Although little private property had been destroyed, the courthouse, many of the buildings framing the square and the depot had been sacrificed during Van Dorn's Raid. Converted to a Confederate Armory in 1861, the Jones-McIlwain Foundry, the town's only heavy industry, had been destroyed to prevent its use by the Union Army as a hospital (Deupree, p. 56). Holly Springs' vital railroad link had been severed by the destruction of countless miles of track by both Union and Confederate troops. Far greater still were the ramifications of the social and political changes wrought by the War. Political and social turmoil were rampant as Republicans and newly emancipated blacks sought to assert their domination over the white Democratic minority. The economic implications of this new social order were devastating. Without the slave labor upon which the old plantation system had been built, the foundation of the thriving agricultural economy crumbled. Moreover, most of the great plantations had been abandoned and left to the mercy of the squatters, carpetbaggers and subsistence farmers. By 1863, only five of the fifty plantations along the road between La Grange, Tennessee, and Holly Springs were still occupied (McLemore, A History of Mississippi, vol. I, p. 510).

The Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878 dealt a final and decisive blow to the late-nineteenth-century development of Holly Springs. The epidemic first broke out in New Orleans and raced northward through Grenada and up to Memphis bypassing Holly Springs. Reflecting the popular belief that the fever was generated by the "miasma" of the swamps, the residents of Holly Springs, reassured by the town's location at the highest point in the state, believed themselves to be immune from the scourge. Rather than enforcing a strict quarantine, the town generously opened its doors to refugees from the stricken lowlands. Within a week, the first of the refugees had died. Eight weeks later, the fever had run its course, but more than two thousand of the town's thirty-five hundred residents had fled. Of the fifteen hundred who remained--some three hundred whites and twelve hundred blacks -- 1,440 contracted the fever and 304 died

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

(Carter, p. 72). A contemporary observer commented:

> The plague had asserted itself throughout the entire town and left absolute devastation in its track. There were no sounds of lamentation, for grief was beyond expression in voice or tears; no tolling of bells announced the lonely, unattended funerals, and a settled gloom seemed to have fallen upon every heart ("Mrs. Craig, 1878," quoted in Anderson, "A Chapter in the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878," p. 231).

Yellow fever also brought about a profound social change to the community:

> This epoch in 1878 changed the life as the war had changed the old life, and was followed by even a greater relaxation of high standards. Night life was lurid and lasted much of the night. . . . Ladies seldom ventured on the square at night unless there was something on at "the Hall." Saloons were more openly operated; the front doors were dutifully locked on Sundays, but open in the rear. One occupying the entire M. and F. Building operated its poker games upstairs and bar below day and night. Excursion trains of ten or twelve packed coaches were often run here from Memphis on Sundays and when the saloons were over-crowded, porters with waiters of whiskey would be sent out to peddle them on the square.
>
> It was the extreme revulsion of taut nerves from the horrors of the epidemic that follows all disasters . . . (John Mickle, The South Reporter, 1930, quoted in Carter, p. 73).

The profound impact of war and pestilence on the community is reflected in Holly Springs' notable dearth of late-nineteenth-century high-style architecture. Between 1870 and 1899, new residential development was limited primarily to the construction of single-story L-shaped vernacular frame homes. The Italianate influence predominated, characterized by the enrichment of cornices and gable ends with scrolled brackets and the insertion of bay windows in the front gable ends (#'s 7, 40, 108). Galleries were frequently embellished with Eastlake and Stick Style details. Only in three Holly Springs residences, Grey Gables (#142), Heritage (#105) and The Pines (#4), is the full vigor of the Italianate style fully expressed.

Early-twentieth-century architectural development in Holly Springs was highlighted by the remodeling of several important Greek Revival residences by the important St. Louis architect, Theodore C. Link, who was responsible for designing the New State

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Capitol, Jackson, Mississippi, and the Union Passenger Station, St. Louis, Missouri. Commissioned initially to remodel the interior of Walter Place (#50), home of Oscar Johnson, president of the International Shoe Company in St. Louis, Link also enlarged the Polk-Cochran Place (Tuckahoe) (#9) and Featherston Place (#8) to serve as guest houses for the Johnson family. He is also believed to have remodeled Dunvegan (#38) at the same time.

Despite the changing fortunes of the town, the commitment of Holly Springs to higher education has remained constant since the town was incorporated. The first school, the Literary Institute for Boys, was opened in 1837 and reorganized in 1838 as the University of Holly Springs (E). In 1843, another male academy, St. Thomas Hall, was opened. Dr. Francis Lister Hawks, later president of the school that would become Tulane University in New Orleans, was the first director of that school. The Female Institute, later called the Holly Springs Collegiate Institute, which awarded the degree of Mistress of Polite Literature, was opened in 1840 (Carter, p. 60). Its competitor, the Franklin Female College, was founded in 1850. By that time, Marshall County was spending more on higher education than the rest of the state put together, exclusive of the budget for the University of Mississippi in nearby Oxford (Carter, p. 60). The fine educational system of Holly Springs contributed greatly to the mid-nineteenth-century development of the community. As one writer noted: "the cause of education seems to have received much attention and the schools rank among the most prominent of their kind . . . on which account many wealthy planters reside here solely for the education of their children" (DeBow's Review, vol. XXVII, July, 1859, p. 117).

Holly Springs has made major contributions to the development of black education in Mississippi. Rust College (F), established in 1866, was the first black "normal institute" in the state and the first college established by the Freedman's Aid Bureau of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Mississippi Industrial College, a vocational-technical school, was founded in 1905 by the Mississippi Conference of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, under the leadership of Bishop Elias Cottrell, one of the region's leading theologians.

Many nationally prominent political figures have resided in Holly Springs. Numbered among its notable statesmen are United States Senators Joseph W. Chalmers (1807-1853), Colonel Edward Carey Walthall (1831-1898), and Hiram Rhodes Revels (1827-1901), the state's first black senator; U.S. Congressman Wall Doxey (1892-1962); long-time Memphis, Tennessee, mayor and political boss, Edward Crump (1879-1954); and Mississippi Secretaries of State, Kinloch Falconer (-1878), also a well-known Holly Springs newspaper editor, and James Hill (1846-1901), a former slave, the first black to hold that office. Holly Springs lawyer Alexander M. Clayton (1801-1889), along with L.Q.C. Lamar, an Oxford resident, drafted the state's Ordinance of Secession in 1861.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Other Holly Springs residents have distinguished themselves in the fields of literature and art. (Katherine) Sherwood Bonner (1849-1883), secretary and confident to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, pioneered in the literary expression of the Negro dialect in her books Dialect Tales and Like Unto Like as well as in her frequent contributions to Harper's Magazine and The Youth's Companion. Rev. Joseph Holt Ingraham (1809-1860), Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, introduced the concept of Biblical romance in Prince of the House of David and other novels. His son, Prentiss Ingraham (1843-1904), military hero, adventurer and author, churned out more than six hundred "pulp" novels and westerns during the late-nineteenth century. Holly Springs artist, Kate Freeman Clark (1876-1957), studied in New York with William Merritt Chase. Her paintings, exhibited in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and New York, are now part of the permanent collection of Kate Freeman Clark Art Gallery in Holly Springs (#135).

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