

**The Greensboro Historic District  
Starkville, Mississippi**

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Starkville, Mississippi has three National Register of Historic Places National Register Districts. The three National Register Districts are the Greensboro Street Historic District, added to the register in 1982, the Nash Street Historic District Added to the register in 1993, and the Overstreet Historic District added to the register in 1992.

Certain criteria are used as a guide when considering potential historic resources for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the criteria. According to documents published by the National Register of Historic Places the "criteria for evaluation" are as follows:

"National Register Criterion A: Event - made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

National Register Criterion B: Person - associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

National Register Criterion C: Design/Construction - distinctive characteristics of a building type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction

National Register Criterion D: Information potential - have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. "- National Register Web Site

Nominations for inclusion on the National Register are received, reviewed, and in some cases prepared by the State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO. In Mississippi this office is a function of the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Once the SHPO has reviewed the nomination the document is sent to the National Park Service, which either approves or denies the nomination.

The following are typically considered as the major benefits of inclusion in the National Register :

Recognition that a property or properties are significant to the Nation, the State, or the community.

The potential to qualify for Federal and State tax benefits for rehabilitation of historic structures.

Potential for State or Federal assistance for historic preservation under limited circumstances.

The Greensboro Street Historic District is of local significance because of the architecture, and because of locally important individuals who have resided within the district. The district is made up of primarily single-family residences with the significant exception of the historic Greensboro Center, a building designed by famed Jackson, Mississippi architect C.H. Lindsley. According to the National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, "The Greensboro Street Historic District is a highly cohesive and architecturally/historically significant collection of primarily residential structures. It possesses fine examples of vernacular architecture dating from the 1860's through the 1920's and preserves the scale and ambience of its historical appearance better than any similar street in the city of Starkville. Additionally, the ... district is important as containing perhaps the highest concentration of residences of the economic and civic leaders of Starkville from the mid-nineteenth through early-twentieth centuries." Greensboro Street derives its name from the former Greensboro Road, which connected Starkville, originally know as Boardtown, to the now defunct town of Greensboro. The town of Greensboro, until 1871, was the county seat of Choctaw County. With the exception of Greensboro Street only a small portion of the Original Greensboro Road remains as part of Highway 182.

"Located along one of the oldest routes leading Westward from Starkville, Mississippi, the Greensboro Street Historic District comprises forty-six structures, more than thirty of which are architecturally and/or historically significant. The district is composed of one long residential boulevard, which, due to the impressive assemblage of dwellings dating from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries, is representative of about six decades of historical continuity in Starkville's residential growth.

The ... area stretches along Greensboro Street ... for approximately one-half mile from a point just west of Cushman and Yeats Streets to the crest of the hill just east of Curtis (sic) Circle and is topographically characteristic of the gently rolling terrain upon which Starkville is situated. From the eastern end of the ... district, Greensboro slopes gradually downward to a point near its intersection with Whitfield Street, levels off as it continues westward to Gladney (sic) Lane, then rises sharply to the crest of the hill... forming the western boundary of the district. The northern and southern boundaries of the district are formed by the rear property lines of those parcels facing Greensboro.

Architecturally, the Greensboro Historic District presents a picture of great variety. The earliest structures along the street date from the late-1860's and early 1870's. They are Greek Revival and eclectic architecture. Queen Anne houses followed these, as the area began to take on more of the density of a neighborhood, rather than that of a rural road. At the turn of the century Colonial Revival dominated the neighborhood's fashion, but that style also gave way by the 1920's to Bungalows and Period Revivals. Most of the houses occupy sites slightly elevated above the wide, tree-lined boulevard and have uniform setbacks, which provide for spacious and attractive front lawns." -2

The structures within the confines of the Greensboro Street Historic District also fall into three other categories, which are noted, on the National Register Nomination Form. These categories are: "Contributing, marginal, and intrusion. Contribution buildings are those, which possess architectural and/or historical qualities that add to the significance of the district. Marginal buildings are those, which do not add architectural or historical significance but have been designed in such a way as to be compatible with the older buildings, therefore, not detracting from the district's architectural integrity. Intrusions are those buildings which do detract in varying degrees from the district's architectural integrity." -PPool

The street has counted as residents at least three former mayor's, three former aldermen, two college presidents, as well as numerous other business and educational leaders within the community including: William H. Reynolds the founder of Reynolds insurance; Colonel A.G. O'Brien founder of the Starkville Banner; William H. Gun a druggist and planter; Frank Cooper president and CEO of People's Bank (now Cadence); J.B. Vanlandingham or VanLandingham Lumber Company; Grady Imes publisher of the Starkville News; J.A. Lamb and Overstreet were both Superintendents of the Starkville Public Schools; B.M. "Buzz" Walker was President of Miss. A.M.; Jim Barker President of Clemson University. Current residents of acclaim include former Starkville Mayor Wilmot Thomson, current Cadence Financial Corporation CEO Lewis Mallory, and former Alderperson Marie Beal to name but a few.

The architectural styles of the street can be grouped into four major categories. These categories consist of late Greek Revival and eclectic, late Victorian, Bungalow and Craftsman, and a diverse group of late 19th and early 20th Century Revivals. Although many of the early structures on the street were probably executed from designs from plan books, a good number of structures from the 1920's on were designed by architects of local and regional acclaim including

C.H. Lindsley, Tom Johnson, and Tom Jones to name but a few. In addition, the street has counted as residents numerous architects including Jim Barker, Larry Barrow, Micheal Fazio, Briar Jones, Ron Murry, and Gary Schafer, who have all worked to preserve the neighborhood.

The oldest structures on the street are those from the Greek Revival and eclectic period. The Reynolds home at 404 Greensboro, is probably the oldest structure on the street, constructed in 1869. The house was constructed in the eclectic style and shows evidence of the mass-produced detailing made possible by steam powered workshops in industrial centers. Examples of vernacular Greek Revival can be seen at 410, 413 and 522 Greensboro. It is thought that these structures were constructed around 1870. Although much more modest than Greek Revival structures such as the Lyceum at the University of Mississippi or The Old Capital in Jackson, these structures retain the proportions and basic elements of the style which was made popular across the country by books written by Asher Benjamin and Minard Lefever.

The Victorian style took the country by storm after the War between the States, and examples of Victorian Queen Anne structures exist at 306, 504, 515, 601, and 607 Greensboro. These structures were constructed between the late 1870's and the early 1900's.

Some of the more substantial structures in terms of size are the Colonial Revival houses constructed in the district from turn of the twentieth century until World War One. Their size reflects the relative prosperity in the community during this time period. Examples of such homes exist 305, 400, 425, 508, 513, 514, 520, and 521 Greensboro.

Other homes that help add substantially to the architectural diversity of the street are examples of the arts and crafts bungalows, and period revivals constructed in the time period between World War One and World War Two. The residences at 307, 309, 311, 408, 411, 500502, 512, and 524, as well as the Greensboro Center all examples of such.

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