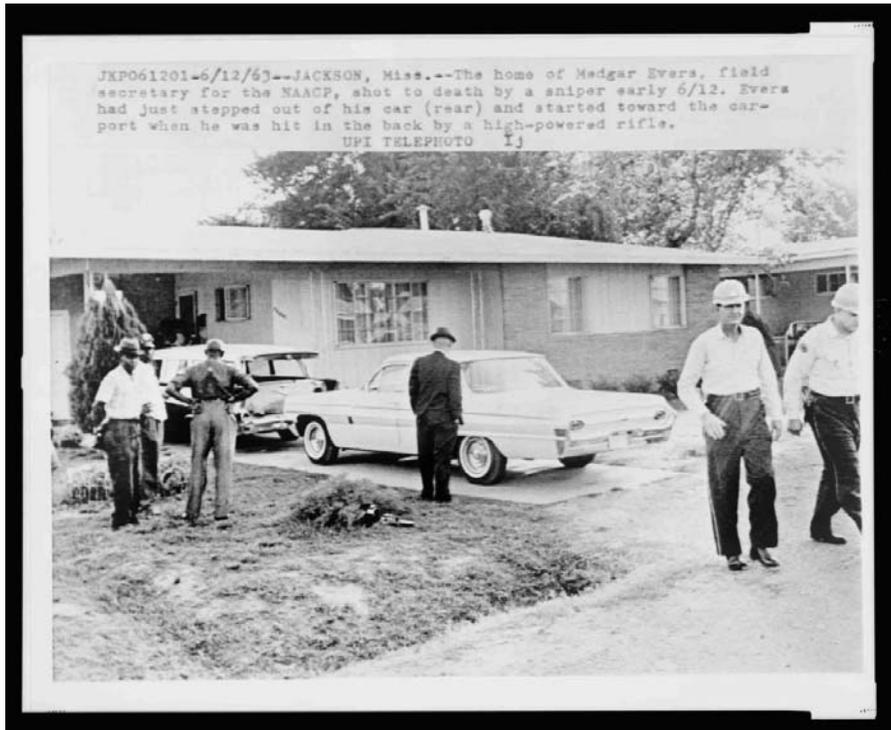




Name of Property: Medgar and Myrlie Evers House
City, State: Jackson, Mississippi
Period of Significance: 1956-1964
NHL Criteria: 1 and 2
NHL Theme: II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements
2. Reform movements
IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
1. Parties, protest, and movements
Previous Recognition: 2000 National Register of Historic Places
2013 Medgar Evers Historic District (contributing resource)
National Historic Context: *Civil Rights in America: Racial Voting Rights* (2007; rev. 2009)
XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements
M. Civil Rights Movements

NHL Significance:

- The first Mississippi field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Medgar Evers, and his wife Myrlie, made major contributions to advancing the goals of the civil rights movement on a national level. Medgar and Myrlie Evers used their home as an extension of the office, hosting other civil rights leaders and sheltering black victims of the state’s white supremacist power structure.
- As field secretary, Medgar Evers was at the forefront of every major civil rights event in Mississippi from 1955 until his assassination in 1963, and his leadership in the state known as the “deepest bastion of segregation” made him a significant figure on the national civil rights stage. He instigated voter registration drives around the state;



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investigated murders of African Americans such as Emmett Till, George Lee, and others; worked behind the scenes with James Meredith and Clyde Kennard to integrate Mississippi's white universities; and became involved in direct action campaigns such as the beach wade-ins on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the library read-ins and the economic boycott of downtown Jackson.

- Evers became a nationally known leader by the late 1950s. He made numerous speeches at NAACP branches around the country and was the subject of articles in the black press, most notably a long biographical sketch in *EBONY* in which he espoused nonviolence and declared, "Mississippi is home."
- Medgar Evers's assassination on June 12, 1963, in the carport of his home was the first murder of a nationally significant civil rights leader, focusing national attention on the necessity for civil rights legislation. His assassination forced Myrlie Evers into a more prominent role for the NAACP. The assassination also became one of the catalysts for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Integrity:

- The Medgar and Myrlie Evers House retains a high degree of historic integrity, having almost no alterations since the time of Medgar Evers's assassination. It has operated as a house museum since the 1990s.

Owner of Property: Tougaloo College



Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre.

Origins of Nomination: In recognition of the leadership of Medgar and Myrlie Evers in the national Civil Rights Movement, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History undertook the nomination on the fiftieth anniversary of Medgar Evers' assassination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- The Evers House designation would be the first to recognize the nationally significant civil rights leadership of an African American Mississippian. Only one other property in Mississippi is designated as an NHL for its civil rights significance, the Lyceum-Circle Historic District at the University of Mississippi, a state-owned property that was the site of riots to prevent integration.
- Designation will recognize the stewardship of the Evers House by Mrs. Evers, Tougaloo College, and the State of Mississippi and will encourage continued support for its preservation and interpretation.
- This NHL designation would be a first step in a study mandated by Congress and supported by Mississippi's congressional delegation to examine what significant civil rights properties should be considered as potential units of the National Park Service.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None is known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Wiley moved, Dr. Young seconded; unanimous approval.



Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 05/06/16):

Myrna Smith-Thompson, Executive Director, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, Mound Bayou, Mississippi
William “Brother” Rogers, Associate Director, Stennis Center for Public Service, Starkville, Mississippi
Katie Blount, State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi
Elbert R. Hilliard, Secretary-Treasurer, Mississippi Historical Society, and Director Emeritus, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi
Lolly Barnes, Executive Director, Mississippi Heritage Trust, Jackson, Mississippi
Robert Luckett, PhD, Director, Margaret Walker Center, Jackson State University
Beth L. Orlansky, Advocacy Director, Mississippi Center for Justice, Jackson, Mississippi
Reilly Morse, President and CEO, Mississippi Center for Justice, Jackson, Mississippi
June L. DeHart
Beverly W. Hogan, President, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi (owner)
The Honorable Gregg Harper, Mississippi 3rd District, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC
The Honorable Steven Palazzo, Mississippi District, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC
The Honorable Trent Kelly, Mississippi 1st District, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC
Mrs. Tarasa Brierly, English Department Chair, Murrah High School, Jackson, Mississippi
Robert Chapman, Clinton, Mississippi
Bridges Harrison, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Lea Cornelius, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Ashanti McGruder, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Anajah Coleman, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Sarah Sparks, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Tatum Freeman, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Noah Young, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Brooke Stanford, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Destine’e Donald, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Concerned Mississippi Student
Hayden Oswalt, Student, Clinton High School, Mississippi
Jay Gordon, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Makayla Scott, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Christopher Brown, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Jamil Johnson, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Christopher McLin, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Ian Stingley, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Kamryn Darby, Student, Murrah High School, Mississippi
Alix Davis Williams, Clinton High School, Clinton, Mississippi
John Jopling, Health Law Director, Mississippi Center for Justice, Jackson, Mississippi
Lawson Newman, AIA, WFT Architects, P.A., Jackson, Mississippi



Wayne F. Timmer, AIA, WFT Architects, P.A., Jackson, Mississippi
The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor, State of Mississippi
The Honorable Thad Cochran, United States Senator, Washington, DC

Advisory Board Recommendation: