NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District
Other names/site number: Prentiss Institute
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 292 J. E. Johnson Rd.
City or town: Prentiss State: MS County: Jefferson Davis
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national **_X_statewide** **___local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_A **___B** **_X_C** **___D**

Katie Blount 3-31-16

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District | Jefferson Davis, MS
Name of Property | County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — 5-16-2016 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	3	buildings
2		sites
1		structures
		objects
9	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/College

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Auditorium
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum
SOCIAL/community center
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE BLOCK,WOOD, BRICK, GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District is located southeast of the town of Prentiss along the east side of J. E. Johnson Road north and south of its intersection with St. Stephens Road. The undulating site has open expanses of lawn with numerous mature trees and shrubs. Concrete sidewalks link most of the resources at the northern end of the site and an unpaved drive crosses the southern portion. The district includes thirteen resources, nine of which are contributing. Nine of the resources are buildings, one is a gravesite, one is a family cemetery and one consists of contributing landscape features. The 1907 Building was previously listed in the National Register in 1979. A former gristmill that was located to the west of the 1907 House included in the nomination has since been demolished.

Narrative Description

The Prentiss Institute Historic District includes the historic resources associated with the Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, a school serving African American students from the early years of the 20th century up to 1989. The Prentiss Institute covers 22 acres, located around the intersection of J. E. Johnson Avenue and E. St. Stephens Road near Prentiss, Mississippi. Seven of the site's thirteen resources are located north of St. Stephens Road, and the remaining resources are located to its south. The seven resources to the north of the road are closely spaced, arranged in a loose row, and all face south. The 1907 Building (Inv. 2, c. 1820) [Photo 1] is located north of the intersection and is set back from the street and its lawn is enclosed by a chain link fence. Also located within the fence in the front yard of the house is the gravesite for Jonas Edward Johnson and his wife Bertha Labranche Johnson, the first and second presidents of the school (Inv. 3, 1971) [Photo 2]. Ransom E. Olds Hall, a three-story brick veneer dormitory (Inv. 4, 1963) [Photo 3], is located to the east of the 1907 House and is physically connected to Glattley Hall (Inv. 5, 1932) [Photo 4] a one-story brick veneer former dormitory building, by a brick hyphen that was constructed circa 1965. Jackson architect N. W. Overstreet donated the plans for Glattley Hall. Two one-story industrial metal buildings are located to the east of Glattley Hall. The western building, William V. "Bill" Crosby Cafeteria (Inv. 6) [Photo 6], was

Glattley Hall. The western building, William V. "Bill" Crosby Cafeteria (Inv. 6) [Photo 6], was constructed in 1970, and the eastern building, known as the Head Start Building (Inv.7) [Photo 7] was built in 1985. The Magee Family Cemetery, which contains the remains of the original settlers of the plantation which became the school (Inv. 8, c. 1851) [Photo 9] is located to the east of the industrial metal buildings and is surrounded by a chain link fence.

The resources to the south of St. Stephens Road are randomly and widely spaced and face in differing directions. All of the resources are one-story brick veneer buildings except for the Rosenwald Building (Inv. 1) [Photo 17, 18, 19] and the Gymnasium (Inv. 12) [Photo 15] . The Rosenwald Building (Inv. 1, 1926) [Photo 17, 18, 19], constructed of rusticated concrete block, is prominently located to the southeast of the intersection of the two roads and faces west overlooking J.E. Johnson Avenue. The Ruby E. Stutts Lyells Library (Inv. 9, 1968) [Photo 10] is located to the east of the Rosenwald Building and faces north toward St. Stephens Road. Immediately east of the library, sits the Joseph Bancroft Science Building (Inv. 10, 1976) [Photo 11], also facing St. Stephens. Easom Hall (Inv. 11, 1945) [Photo 12] is located toward the center of the site and faces east. The Gymnasium (Inv. 12, 1976-1977) [Photo 15] is an industrial metal building located to the on the south end of the campus.

Resources are considered contributing if they were built during the Period of Significance, relate to the historical significance of the district, and retain sufficient elements of integrity to illustrate their association with the historic educational mission of the Prentiss Institute. Resources are considered noncontributing if built outside the Period of Significance or if they no longer possess integrity due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes. There are 9 contributing resources and 3 non-contributing resources and one previously listed resource. The buildings deemed noncontributing were constructed after the period of significance, c. 1901-1966.

The Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute closed in 1989, and many of the buildings have not been occupied since that time. Therefore some individual resources show the ill effects of deferred maintenance. However, the campus retains its historic setting with the layout and landscape features intact. The campus is owned by the Prentiss Institute Board of Trustees who maintain the 1907 House as a museum and the Rosenwald Building as a museum, auditorium and community center. The Board of Trustees completed a historic rehabilitation of the Rosenwald Building in consultation with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in 2013. Those two buildings retain a high degree of integrity.

Inventory of Resources

The resources are listed clockwise beginning with the Rosenwald Building. Contributing resources are designated "C", noncontributing resources are designated as "NC", and resources previously listed on the National Register are designated "PL".

1. Rosenwald Building C 1926

The Rosenwald Building is an H-plan, one-story, rusticated concrete block administration building on a poured concrete foundation with a cross-gable composition shingle roof with exposed rafter ends and two interior brick chimneys. The building faces west and has a seven-bay auditorium at the center connecting two classroom wings that extend to the rear to form a courtyard. A one-story shed

porch with wood posts extends across the auditorium façade between the classroom wings. A central entrance at the façade with double leaf doors and the multi-light transom is flanked to either side by paired wood six-over-six double hung sash windows and similar single windows. Nine-over-nine light double hung sash windows are centered at the façade of each classroom wing. Three two-light clerestory windows are centered at the façade above the porch, lighting the auditorium. The south elevation has three five-unit grouped nine-over-nine light windows at the first floor with a series of single and three-light windows at the basement. Entrances are centered under the two eastern windows at the basement level and have shed canopies with wood posts. The first floor level of the north elevation is similar to the south elevation and has three similar five-unit grouped windows. The basement level has no window or door openings. The rear elevation has two four-unit grouped nine-over-nine windows at its two central auditorium bays and double six-over-six windows at the rear classroom wings. Small frame additions have been added at the east end of each wing to house bathrooms. Shed porches extend between the bathrooms and the rear elevation. The exterior walls of the building are unpainted rusticated concrete block with stucco at the gable ends.

The interior of the building has a large assembly room at the core with a small stage centered at its south end that is recessed in the area between the north front and rear H wings. The stage is framed by a wide arched opening and projects slightly into the room and has a decorative facia. The assembly room has a beaded board ceiling with modern reproduction school light fixtures and a hardwood floor. Walls are finished with sheet rock. A kitchen and service area has been created at the rear (N end) of the assembly room in a partitioned classroom in the north classroom wing and is accessed by two large cased openings with transoms. Restrooms flank the kitchen to the east. A classroom that is now used as a museum is located in the rear of the north classroom wing and is accessed by a single paneled door with transom at the east end of the north wall of the assembly room. A similar entrance at the west end of the same wall accesses another classroom at the front-north wing. Similar classrooms are located in the south classroom wing. A series of small ancillary service rooms are located within the basement.

The building was restored in 2013 in consultation with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and is in excellent condition.

[Photo 17, 18, 19]

2. 1907 House PL ca. 1820

The 1907 house is a one-story frame dwelling with a spraddle gable industrial metal roof with one interior brick flue. The house faces south and is three bays wide by two bays deep with a one-bay deep rear shed extension. A full façade recessed porch is supported by wood posts and has a modern replacement wood railing. The central entrance at the façade has a vertical plank door and is flanked to either side by single wood four-over-four light double hung sash windows. Two similar windows are located at the east elevation and a similar window is located at the rear bay of the west elevation. A secondary entrance with a vertical plank door is located in the front bay of the west elevation. The north elevation has a central entrance that is flanked to either side by single windows. The façade of the building is clad with flush board siding. The side and rear elevations are clad with replacement wood or fiberboard clapboard siding. The building is supported on a rusticated concrete block pier foundation.

The interior has a single large room within its core and two small cabinet rooms within its rear shed extension. Ceilings and walls in the room at the core are finished with flush boards. The rear rooms have flush board ceilings and a mix of flush board and beaded board wall finishes. All rooms have exposed wood floors.

The building, which was where Prentiss Institute began, has seen minimal alteration and is in generally good condition. It is now used as a museum.

[Photo 1]

3. Johnson Gravesite C 1971
School founders, Jonas Edward Johnson and his wife Bertha Labranche Johnson, are buried in the front yard of the 1907 house. Their burial plot is covered with a concrete slab and has a marble headstone with the inscription: "Johnson/Jonas Edward/May 7 1879/Nov 19 1953/Bertha Labranche/May 7 1882/Feb 24 1971."

[Photo 2]

4. Ransom E. Olds Hall C 1963
Ransom E. Olds Hall is a rectangular three-story brick veneer former dormitory building with a flat built-up roof. The building faces east and is fifteen bays wide and one bay deep. The principal entrances for this building and for Glattley Hall were relocated to an intermediate lobby space when it was built in 1965. Secondary entrances are located in the third and thirteenth bays (from the south) of the first floor level and have simple flat, cantilevered canopies. Remaining bays have single one-over-one light aluminum windows. Similar windows are found at the remaining bays of the upper levels and all bays of the rear elevation. Each bay of windows is visually articulated as a vertical band with multi-chromatic tile spandrels between each floor level. The north and south elevations are blank except for a central bay of louvers. The building's name is set with raised aluminum letters at the upper level of the south elevation. The three central bays of the west elevation project slightly. Exterior walls are brick veneer above a poured concrete foundation.

The interior has central corridors that run the length of the building on each floor with stair tower towers corresponding to the two secondary entrances at the east elevation and a central bank of showers and bathrooms corresponding to the projecting bays at the rear elevation. A series of small dormitory rooms flank the corridor to either side in the remaining spaces at each level. Ceilings are typically covered with a textured plaster, walls are typically painted concrete block, and floors are typically exposed concrete.

The building is relatively unaltered but is in deteriorated condition with significant water damage having occurred.

A one-story T-shaped hyphen, built in 1965, connects Ransom E. Olds Hall and Glattley Hall and serves as a lobby for both buildings. The lobby is faced with brick veneer and has a flat roof. The south façade is an aluminum and glass window wall system.

[Photo 3]

5. Glattley Hall C 1932 N. W. Overstreet
Glattley Hall is a rectangular one-story brick veneer former dormitory building with a front-facing gable industrial metal roof with a round attic ventilator at its south end. The building faces south and is three bays wide and fifteen-bay deep. The principal entrances for this building and for the adjacent building were relocated to the hyphen when it was built in 1965. The original principal entrance is centered at the South elevation is flanked at either side by fifteen-light steel industrial windows. Similar windows are found at the remaining bays of the east and west elevations. Exterior walls are brick veneer above a poured concrete foundation.

The interior has central corridors that run the length of the building with small dormitory rooms to either side. Ceilings are typically finished with sheetrock and walls with smooth plaster. Floors are typically exposed concrete.

The building is relatively unaltered but is in severely deteriorated condition with significant water damage having occurred.

[Photo 4]

6. William V. "Bill" Crosby Cafeteria C 1970
The William V. "Bill" Crosby Cafeteria Building is a one-story industrial metal building with a front-facing gable industrial metal roof. The rectangular building faces south and is five bays wide and five bays deep. The center bay of the façade is recessed and has a single aluminum framed entrance system with a single door to the west and a banded aluminum window to the east. Double aluminum horizontal two-over-two windows are set within the remaining bays of the façade. Similar four-unit grouped windows are located in the three central bays of the east elevation with single entrances in the outer bays. The west elevation has a similar window to the south and an entrance to the north.

The interior was not accessible for documentation but includes a large cafeteria space with offices and ancillary rooms to the south and a kitchen to the north. The building is unaltered and is in good condition.

[Photo 6]

7. Head Start Building NC ca. 1985
The building is a one-story industrial metal building with a front-facing gable industrial metal roof and industrial metal siding.

[Photo 7]

8. Tobias Magee Cemetery C ca. 1851
The Tobias Magee Cemetery is a small family cemetery enclosed by a chain link fence. Seven interments are recorded in the cemetery dating from 1851 to 1890 and all have granite or marble headstones. A Mississippi Department of Archives and Historic historical marker for the Tobias Magee Estate is located within the cemetery.

[Photo 9]

9. Ruby E. Stutts Lyells Library C 1968
The Ruby E. Stutts Lyells Library is a one-story brick veneer building with a flat built-up roof. The rectangular building faces north and is six bays wide and six bays deep. The western bays of the façade are recessed and have an off-center entrance with double-leaf doors and a transom that is flanked by single fixed windows with painted metal spandrels and blind transoms. Narrow brick pilasters separate the windows and entrance. The three eastern bays have single horizontal two-over-two light aluminum windows set within full height slightly recessed stucco vertical panels with brick sills. Similar windows are located at all bays of the east and south elevations. Two similar windows at the west elevation flank an entrance at its south bay that has double leaf doors with a transom and a simple flat cantilevered hood. The exterior walls are exposed brick veneer.

The interior plan consists of a single large open room with small office and bathroom spaces partitioned along the west wall and a classroom at the west end of the south wall that opens into the main space with accordion folding partitions. Ceilings have exposed bar joists, walls are painted concrete block, and floors are finished with vinyl floor covering.

The building is unaltered and is in generally good condition.

[Photo 10]

10. Joseph Bancroft Science Building NC 1976

The Joseph Bancroft Science Building is a one-story brick veneer building with a side gable industrial metal roof. The rectangular building faces south and is five bays wide and two bays deep. The principal entrance is located off-center at the façade and has a shed portico with decorative metal supports. A single entrance at the eastern bay has a concrete accessibility ramp. Single aluminum one-over one windows with exterior grilles are set within the remaining bays of the façade and at the north elevation. The east and west elevations each have two clerestory windows. The exterior walls are exposed brick veneer.

The interior plan consists of classrooms at either end of the building with bathrooms, closets, and ancillary spaces centered between them on either side of a connecting hallway. Ceilings are finished with textured sheetrock, walls are painted concrete block, and floors are finished with vinyl floor covering.

The building is unaltered and in generally good condition.

[Photo 11]

11. Easom Hall C 1945

Easom Hall, also known as The Little Theatre Building, is a one-story brick veneer building with a cross gable industrial metal roof. The T-shaped building faces east and has a six-by-one bay core with a one-by-one bay T wing to the east. A gable portico with thin aluminum columns on low brick bases extends the full façade of the T wing. The façade has a central entrance at the T wing flanked to the north at the core by two single aluminum horizontal two-over-two windows and at the south of the core by two similar windows and an entrance at the south bay. Similar single windows are set within all bays of the rear elevation. The exterior walls are exposed brick veneer.

The interior plan consists of an entry foyer and bathrooms at the T wing with a large classroom at the core. A stage is located at the south end of the classroom with theater seating to its north. Ceilings are finished with textured sheetrock, walls are finished with plywood paneling, and floors are covered with carpeting.

The building is unaltered and is in generally good condition.

[Photo 12]

12. Gymnasium NC 1976-1977

The gymnasium is a one-story industrial metal building with a low-pitched roof. The building has a taller rectangular core that houses the gymnasium with a lower rectangular portion to the south that houses ancillary spaces. The recessed principal entrance is centered at the south elevation and has a projecting flat awning. Walls are finished with industrial metal siding.

The gymnasium is a large open room with exposed structural framing, exposed walls, and a concrete floor. The ancillary rooms are partitioned with exposed concrete block walls and include bathrooms, a kitchen, and storage rooms.

The building is unaltered and is in generally good condition.

[Photo 15]

13. Campus sidewalks and concrete fountain C Various dates
Concrete sidewalks are found throughout the campus and serve to define the layout as well as illustrate the communication and transportation patterns of the historic campus. The sidewalks, and a concrete water fountain located to the south of the Rosenwald Building, were most likely constructed by students as a vocational training exercise.

[Photo 17]

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Education
Ethnic Heritage/Black
Social History/Civil Rights
Architecture

Period of Significance
1907-1971

Significant Dates
1907

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
N. W. Overstreet

Period of Significance (Justification)

The period of significance for the Prentiss Normal Institute Historic District extends from 1907, the year of the college was established, through 1971, the year that co-founder Bertha LaBranche Johnson died. This period reflects the years the site evolved and grew as an elementary and secondary school and later a college for African American students under founders Jonas and Bertha Johnson and during which it was the local hub of civil rights activity in Jefferson Davis County. The year 1971 also coincides with the beginning of mandated integration of public schools in Mississippi, a development that changed the landscape of education and eventually brought about the demise of Prentiss Institute.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph
(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District has statewide significance under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage/black for its role as a leading school for African-American students and for its role in the state's Civil Rights movement. It also has local significance under Criterion C for architecture for its Rosenwald school building, an example of the innovative "alphabet plans "that influenced rural school architecture for both blacks and whites in the 1920s and 1930s.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Education
The Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District is historically significant as one of the most widely recognized private African-American schools in early-20th century Mississippi. Founded by Jonas E. Johnson and his wife Bertha LaBranche Johnson in 1907, the school was a major educational facility for blacks in the region until it closed in 1989.

Ethic Heritage/Black
Prentiss Institute illustrates an evolving approach to civil rights that occurred both within the institution and, because of its strong association with the Johnson family, within the Johnson family itself. During the 1960s, the institute was referred to by the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission as a "beehive of activity" for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.), and the Johnson's son, Alcee LaBranche "A.L." Johnson, who was prominent in the institute's leadership at the time, was recognized as a leader of local civil rights efforts.

Architecture
The Rosenwald Building, constructed in 1926 with the assistance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, was built with some modifications using standard plan #6-A, which was distributed to Rosenwald schools and published in *Community School Plans*. These one-story, H and T-shaped buildings, developed beginning in 1919 by the Rosenwald Fund in consultation with educator Fletcher B. Dresslar, incorporated new standards for natural lighting and ventilation and revolutionized rural school design. For the next three decades, these "alphabet plans" became the new standard for rural consolidated schools, which consolidated smaller one-room schools into larger centralized campuses that allowed the division of students by grades and expanded high school and vocational programs.

Narrative History

Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute was organized in June 1907 by Jonas Edward "J.E." Johnson (1873-1953) and his wife, Bertha LaBranche Johnson (1882-1971), to serve as an elementary school and later a secondary school and junior college, for black students. The couple used borrowed funds to acquire a forty-acre site southeast of downtown Prentiss, Mississippi. At its height the school had an enrollment of more than seven hundred students, a faculty of 44, encompassed more than five hundred acres, and had twenty-four buildings. Professor Johnson, who served as the school's president for forty-six years, devoted his career "to addressing and assessing the educational needs of African-American children during an era when racial segregation and racism would have denied and deprived many Black students of any educational opportunities."[1]

According to the property indexes at the Jefferson Davis County Office of the Chancery Clerk, J.E. Johnson acquired the initial acreage on which he would establish Prentiss Institute from W. L. Polk and others in two separate transactions that occurred on June 19, 1907 and October 15, 1907.[2] Additional acreage was acquired in 1909. Polk had acquired the land in 1901 from the Magee family.[3] At the time, the property retained several buildings that had been constructed as part of the plantation of Tobias Magee (1795-1851): a small frame dwelling that is now known as the 1907 House (NR, 1979) and a row of former slave cabins. The institute utilized the frame dwelling as its sole building for several years and it served both as a classroom and a residence for the Johnsons. Tobias Magee (1795-1851) was a veteran of the War of 1812 who relocated to Mississippi in about 1815. Married to the former Nancy Stevens (1804-1890), the couple had fourteen children. According to a Mississippi Department of Archives and History historical marker at the Magee cemetery (Inv. 8), "By 1841 Magee had purchased over eight acres of land in this area and began to raise cotton and sugar cane, which was shipped to New Orleans from Monticello by steamboat."[4] Magee is recorded in the 1850 census as a fifty-six year old farmer with property valued at $9,000 who owned seventeen slaves.

According to its National Register nomination, the 1907 House (Inv. 2), so-named by Prentiss Institute for its role as the school's first building, was constructed circa 1820 as a "plantation residence" for Tobias Magee. However, given Magee's wealth and large family, this was likely not the primary residence on the plantation.

The Johnsons first visited Prentiss in April 1907 and received a favorable reception from a local banker who encouraged the Johnsons to build the school there.[5] After acquiring land that June, the school was organized. Johnson always referred to himself and his wife as "home folks" and stated that he was "plain as an old shoe." Born in Pike County, Mississippi, on May 7, 1879, Johnson grew up in similar rural

[1] "History of Prentiss Institute," The Rosenwald School Dedication, Sunday, February 24, 2013, 3:00 p.m. (Prentiss, MS: Prentiss Institute Trustee Board, 2013), p. 1.
[2] Prentiss, MS, Jefferson Davis County, Office of the Chancery Clerk, Reverse Index to Deeds; the transactions for the acquisition of the property are recorded in deed volumes 21 and 27 which are no longer available.
[3] Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "1907 House," National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form.
[4] Prentiss, Mississippi, "Tobias Magee Estate, Mississippi Department of Archives and History historical marker.
[5] "Mississippi Enterprise Salutes Progress of Negroes in Prentiss, MS, And Splendid Spirit Of Race Relationship There," The Mississippi Enterprise, undated article (circa 1949) in the collection of Prentiss Institute.

circumstances to those of many of his students. He graduated from Alcorn College in 1902 and married the former Bertha LaBranche in 1904. A native of Copiah County, Mississippi, LaBranche graduated from Tuskegee Institute and had been encouraged by Booker T. Washington to travel to Africa to serve as a missionary. Her mother convinced her to stay in Mississippi to help young people in her own home state. The Johnsons secured a $600 loan from the Bank of Blountville to purchase the forty-acre site for the school. "So, in May 1907, the young couple with two babies in their arms, and naught with which to begin their life's chosen mission save faith in God and their determination to mount all obstacles through faith and prayer, came to Prentiss, then an infant town of less than 200 population, where folks were busy carving out their homes from the forests, and three years prior to this time, were forty miles from any railroad."[6] The county's superintendant of education administered the test required to obtain a teacher's license and Prof. Johnson "made the highest average ever made by a Negro in the county."

The Johnsons patterned their school on the principles that Booker T. Washington had established at Tuskegee: "'that training of the head, heart, and hands,' offers the best foundation for the future of young people, regardless of the individual's plans for a life's vocation" and that "each student is encouraged to develop his individual talent with a view toward service to his fellow man."[7] The State of Mississippi chartered Prentiss Institute as a high school in 1909.

Professor Johnson established a high reputation for the school. The Hattiesburg *American* stated that "no negro school in Mississippi is thought of more by members of both races than the Prentiss Institute. It has grown from a one-teacher school with very meager funds, to a noteworthy institution of learning with an enrollment of 375, with 17 teachers and officers, teaching 15 vocations."[8]

Jefferson Davis County provided some funding to the school in its early decades, as its school board did not have high schools for African-Americans in the days when "separate but equal" schools were the norm in the segregated South. The school also raised funds by sending emissaries to solicit donations from alumni, businesses, and other supporters. Quartets from Prentiss Institute routinely accompanied school representative on these fundraising trips that travelled throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Tuition provided only a small portion of the school's funding, as it specifically sought to provide educational opportunity to those who would otherwise not have access to it.

Prentiss Institute became involved in the Jeanes Agent program in 1912. The program sent agricultural agents to assist the superintendants of education at black schools. The program eventually grew to encompass seventeen states. The U.S. Department of Agriculture placed the first local black county agent at Prentiss Institute in 1912. In 1913, the American Sunday School Union of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, established a program at the school.

Booker T. Washington encouraged Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears Roebuck and Co., to establish a fund to improve African American schools in the South. The Rosenwald Fund provided funds to construct thousands of well-designed school buildings in communities across the South, eventually assisting in the construction of 633 buildings in Mississippi. In 1926, the Julius Rosenwald Fund awarded the institute $1500 to build the Rosenwald Building (Inv. 1), which housed an auditorium and six classrooms in an H-plan building which was modified slightly from the standard Community Plan #6-A. The concrete-block construction was rare among the Rosenwald schools. According to Jennifer Baughn, chief architectural historian at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, "This rarity,

[6] Jacob L. Reddix, "J.E. Johnson, Noted Negro Educator Dies," *Mississippi Educational Journal*, 1954.
[7] Prentiss Institute Panthers, 1965.
[8] "Prentiss Ministers Give Bible Lectures at Negro Institute," Hattiesburg *American*, January 16, 1928, p.

combined with its location on the campus of Prentiss Institute, an important educational institution for African Americans in the time of Jim Crow segregation, gives the building great significance in the history and architectural history of the state."[9] Partly due to its substantial masonry structure, the Prentiss Rosenwald building is the only surviving plan #6-A out of at least thirty, mostly wood-framed identical buildings, which were built in the state.

In addition to secondary, normal, and vocational education, the school offered literacy classes to adults. The Hattiesburg *American* related the story of "Uncle" Joshua Johnston an eighty-year old who learned to read in the program in 1928. Despite the condescending tone of the writing of the period, the article nonetheless recognizes what it meant to Johnson and others to master the most basic of educational achievements: learning to read and to write one's name. "'Uncle' Joshua Johnson, ex-slave, African and proud of it, genuine connoisseur in all realms and varieties of garden sass, Plenipotentiary to all roasting ear patches, gardens, even cotton fields, has added another notch to his entitlements. He has learned to read and he is 'gwinter git one of dem Ph. D's, if dey don't watch out.'" The article continued:

> "Uncle' Josh had a terrible handicap; it bothered him no little. He likes to amble about among the preachers and enjoys their discourses. He is open and frank, but it humiliated the old negro to admit that he could not read or sign his name. However, when the vocational department opened up classes for adult illiterates at the Prentiss Institute, a negro school here, 'Uncle' Josh turned his gray pony out on the grass and took the course, and after about 40 days the old negro, although somewhat halting and fumbling, could actually read. Not only that but he could write his name and it gives him much delight now to have some fellow hand him a check payable to 'Joshua Johnson' for some bit of plowing, for he can now step up to the desk in the banking house and sign his name on the back of it as big as any millionaire.[10]

In 1927, the Johnsons assisted with the establishment of the Oak Park High School for blacks in Laurel.[11] The couple was hired to plan and oversee the construction of the school, which was also a Rosenwald-funded complex, and left Prentiss to operate that facility for six years. They appointed Henry Louis Polk of Prentiss to be the principal and brought two teachers from Prentiss to Laurel. Johnson was elected first vice president of the National Teacher's Association for Negroes in 1929 and later was elected to be its president. The Laurel *Daily Leader* reported on the meeting and noted: "J.E. Johnson, who is well known in Mississippi, has won the esteem and confidence of leading Mississippians of both races."[12]

The Johnson's held title to the Prentiss Normal and Industrial School property until they sold it to the school in October 1929. In 1931 State Department of Education granted the institute a charter as a junior college to serve primarily as a teachers college.

The school celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1932. An article in the Hattiesburg *American* noted:

> Principal Johnson's annual report showed an enrollment of 306 with 31 graduating from all departments. A Junior College course was added this session with 19 enrolled in the

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[9] Natalie Bell, "To Save a School-The Rosenwald Building at Prentiss: Road to Restoration." Administration building (Rosenwald,) Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resources Inventory.
[10] "Uncle Josh Is Likely to Have Writer's Cramp," Hattiesburg *American*, May 11, 1928, p. 6.
[11] "To the Editor," Laurel *Leader-Call*, July 7, 1984, p. 4.
[12] Mississippi Negro Given Honor at National Meet," Laurel *Daily Leader*, August 6, 1929, p. 8.

> freshman class. The student body represented 12 counties in Mississippi and three parishes in Louisiana. Forty-five pupils worked their entire expense and more than half worked a part of their expenses and paid the remainder in farm produce. Fifteen teachers and officers have been employed for the full session."[13]

In 1944, the Institute developed its Veterans' Program in shoe repair, cleaning and pressing, brick masonry, photography and auto mechanics. The Heifer Project, Incorporated, an international agricultural program, established its first program in the U.S. at Prentiss in 1951 (not extant). The program helped to fund the construction and assist with the operation of a dairy at Prentiss. In addition, the program was able to provide purebred heifers to farmers who wanted to raise them but did not have the funds to purchase them. The program later expanded to include chickens and pigs.[14]

After the death of Jonas Johnson on November 19, 1953, his wife assumed the presidency of the college. The Hattiesburg *American* acknowledged the sixty-year anniversary of the Johnson school by noting: "Prentiss Institute is a sound school offering a standard, practical, and spiritual education for young Negro men and women who have meager or no means, but Christian hearts and dedicated desires to become pillars of strength in a world that so terribly needs peace."[15] Paul W. Purdy, a Weona, Arkansas native who enrolled in the Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute in 1958, recalled,

> There had been a great debate about how "Negro" people should be educated. Should they be trained to work with their hands, or should they be given a liberal arts education? The Johnsons decided to do both. "Industrial" meant the trades like carpentry, bricklaying. "Normal" meant liberal arts.[16]

The Jefferson Davis County School Board created its own high school for blacks in 1959, named J.E. Johnson High School, and that program was discontinued at Prentiss. The loss of the revenue from the county for providing this service was significant, and the institute's leadership was forced to expand its solicitation of funds from outside sources. William "Bill" Crosby, a Prentiss alumnus and trustee, became the school's fundraising administrator and was successful in raising the needed money for many years. Also in 1959, Williams Hall, a men's dormitory burned. It was replaced by the Ransom E. Olds Hall in 1963 (Inv. 4).

Prentiss continued to operate as a junior college and remained financially stable throughout the 1960s and 1970s: "This stability was due to the receipt of cash tuition payments instead of payments in farm products; an abundance of poultry, dairy products, and beef generated through the Heifer project–which made it less expensive to feed resident students; the introduction of federal student aid; and private donations from alumni and friends." [17]

Two buildings were added to the campus by 1970: a cafeteria (Inv. 6), named in honor of William V. "Bill" Crosby, a long-time Trustee of the college, and a library, completed in 1968, (Inv. 9) named in

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[13] "Prentiss Institute Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary in Fete," Hattiesburg *American*, March 12, 1932, p. 8.
[14] "History of Prentiss Institute, p. 2.
[15] Prentiss Institute has proud tradition of service," Hattiesburg *American*, March 20, 1967, p. 2.
[16] Gary Pettus. :The pride of Prentiss, Grads honor 100-year legacy." Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*, May 6, 2007, p. 5F.
[17] "History of Prentiss Institute," p. 3.

honor of Ruby E. Stutts Lyells, a noted educator and Civil Rights activist.[18] The school acquired an additional 108 additional acres of land in 1967. In 1976, a new science building (Inv. 10) was completed and named in honor of Joseph C. Bancroft, the founder of Croft Metal Inc. in McComb.[19] The Gymnasium Building (Inv. 13) was constructed in 1976-1977 as a physical-cultural building" to serve the recreational, health, and cultural needs of the school and the surrounding communities."[20] The building had originally been announced in 1971 but construction was delayed until the funds could be raised for its construction.[21]

Mrs. Johnson was still serving as president when she passed away on February 24, 1971. She was buried in the Johnson gravesite (Inv. 3) in front of the 1907 House, and her husband's remains were relocated there from a vault at the community cemetery.[22] The Johnson's son, Alcee LaBranche "A.L." Johnson, took over his mother's role and was named Dean in 1972. The younger Johnson attended Alcorn State University, graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, received a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, and did additional coursework at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. In addition to service in a variety of capacities for numerous local and state organizations, A.L. Johnson was the first black appointee to the state Probation and Parole Board.[23]

By the early 1980s, Prentiss was facing the same financial challenges that other small historically black colleges were experiencing. Desegregation increased opportunities for blacks to attend better-funded colleges and universities that could provide better access to technology and more extensive educational choices. The result was that smaller institutions like Prentiss Institute found it increasingly difficult to attract students.[24] By 1981, the college was facing a $400,000 budget deficit. 239 acres of land were sold and a major fundraising campaign was held. Prentiss Institute President Sidney J. James referred to the college in a 1985 article in the Laurel Leader-Call as "the school that would not die" and stated that an enrollment of 150 was needed to keep the school open.[25] Enrollment in 1976 was only 139 and 146 in 1980.[26] After James was replaced by Onette "Sonny" Johnson, Jr., the grandson of Jonas and Bertha Johnson, the school continued to struggle and finally closed in 1989.[27]

The 1907 House (Inv. 2) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and was designated a Mississippi Landmark in 2014.

Civil Rights

The history of the Civil Rights Movement at Prentiss Institute is not well documented. However, the long history of Prentiss Institute illustrates an evolving approach to civil rights that occurred both within the

[18] Merline Pitre and Bruce A. Glasrud, eds. *Southern Black Women in the Modern Civil Rights Movement* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2013), n.p.
[19] "Science Building dedicated at Prentiss Junior College," Hattiesburg *American*, July 4, 1976, p. 9.
[20] "Prentiss Institute graduates hear Jerry Clower," Hattiesburg *American*, May 17, 1977, p. 10.
[21] "Prentiss Institute Plans Health, Cultural Center," Laurel *Leader-Call*, December 24, 1971, p. 9.
[22] "Mrs. J. E. Johnson, co-founder of Prentiss Institute, dies," Hattiesburg *American*, February 25, 1971, p. 12.
[23] Jewell Brinson, "Just Good Folks," *The Prentiss Headlight*, June 28, 1973, p. 9.
[24] Cynthia Jackson and Eleanor F. Dunn, *Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A Reference Handbook* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Inc. 2003), p. 58-59.
[25] "College Struggling," Laurel *Leader-Call*, July 31, 1984, p. 5.
[26] Stephen Provasnik and Thomas D. Snyder. *Historically Black colleges and universities, 1976 to 2001* (Washington, DC: National Center for Educational Statistics, 2004), p. 21.
[27] "History of Prentiss Institute."

institution and, because of its strong association with the Johnson family, within the Johnson family itself. J. E. Johnson appears to very much have been of the opinion that hard work, a belief in God, and education would raise African-Americans to a better life within the segregated conditions that existed in the South at the time. While he likely would have preferred the end of segregation and was a firm believer in striving for equal opportunity, he began Prentiss Institute at a time when being openly opposed to the system was neither mainstream among southern African-Americans nor was conducive to success in his endeavors. The progress and activities of Prentiss Institute were widely reported in the Hattiesburg and Laurel newspapers at least by the 1920s, and the white press at the time consistently praised Johnson and his efforts. Prentiss Institute did not upset the segregationist apple cart because it provided educational opportunities for blacks that the local government did not begin to provide until 1959 and it focused on training teachers, farmers, and vocational subjects that were consistent with what was considered to be appropriate by the white power structure.

During the tenures of Prof. and Mrs. Johnson, Prentiss Institute actively and successfully raised funds within the white community. The Johnson's cooperative approach worked for them at the time, and it is apparent that they recognized the constraints of the system they were forced to operate within and had mastered methods to navigate it. Johnson agreed with Booker T. Washington's assessment that blacks were better off in the rural South, at least to the degree that he could use the concept to his advantage. When interviewed as part of an investigation into the U.S. Department of Agriculture by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in May 1964, Johnson's son A.L. Johnson, who was then in charge of the institute, stated: "We developed Prentiss Institute through funds by telling the northern white man that he helps us to keep the Negro in the South when he gives to the Institution."[28]

The papers of the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission give insights into the evolution of the approach to civil rights and integration that occurred within the institute and the Johnson family. The commission was a state agency that operated from 1956 to 1977, the objective of which was to "protect the sovereignty of the state of Mississippi, and her sister states from 'federal encroachment'" and to preserve the state's Jim Crow laws."[29] Some historians have compared the Sovereignty Commission to a secret police force, and its agents "engaged in wiretapping, bugging, and other acts of espionage against Mississippi citizens."[30] Agents relied on hearsay and paid informants so the information contained in the reports is highly suspect. However, the Sovereignty Commission records clearly establish that its agents were following events at Prentiss Institute in the 1950s and 1960s.

A December 15, 1958 memo from Zach VanLandingham, an investigator, to the Director stated: "Sheriff Mikell [of Jefferson Davis County] believes that the Negro College, Prentiss Institute is a hot bed of NAACP activity. Its President is A.L. Johnson who the sheriff believes is an NAACP member."[31] VanLandingham reported on February 11, 1959 that a meeting had occurred in Prentiss that was attended by Medgar Evers, the purpose of which was to attempt to get the Civil Rights Commission to investigate voting rights abuses in the county. A week later, VanLandingham reported that "he believed all of the

[28] Pete Daniel. *Dispossession: Discrimination Against African American Farmers in the Age of Civil Rights* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2013), p. 47.
[29] "Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission," Wikipedia.
[30] John Dittmer. Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1995. P. 60.
[31] Memorandum, Zack J. VanLandingham to the Director, State Sovereignty Commission, December 15, 1958, Sovereignty Commission Online.

unrest among the Negroes in the community stemmed from Al Johnson who is Manager of Prentiss Institute..."[32]

Ms. Rosie Hooker, who served on the staff at Prentiss Institute from 1950 to 1976, verified that students and faculty, including A. L. Johnson, were active members of the NAACP in the 1950s and 1960s.[33] She noted that the school provided a safe haven for NAACP meetings and activities, including voter registration training and organizing. Medgar Evers, the Mississippi NAACP field secretary attend meetings there and assisted in developing the voter registration and training. Hooker also recalled that students from Prentiss Institute travelled to Jackson for Evers's funeral in 1963 and were among those arrested during a protest march following the funeral.

The identities and the full extent of the Civil Rights organizing activities of the members of the Prentiss Institute community is only now being documented. One example is found in the book written by Thomas Armstrong, a Prentiss Institute alumnus, in 2011. Armstrong recounts his activities in *Autobiography of a Freedom Rider: My Life as a Foot Soldier for Civil Rights.*[34] Armstrong was raised in the all-black community of Lucas, Mississippi. After the death of both parents, he was raised by his aunt and uncle. He attended local schools in Lucas and entered Prentiss Institute for high school. Describing his teachers, he wrote

> Our teachers, cultivated and confidant, made it their business to teach the younger ones what they knew. Teachers confirmed their belief in us, they pushed us to excel...Our teacher's high expectations, together with the nurturing we received at home, created an environment that bred not only our survival, but growth and achievement. The cumulative effect spawned a vitality that averted the white supremacist intention of rendering us inferior.[35]

After graduating from Prentiss Institute, Armstrong enrolled at Tougaloo College. There he came under the influence of Medgar Evers and trained with the NAACP, the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) and the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee (SNCC) as a field worker. In the late 1950s Armstrong travelled throughout south Mississippi providing voter registration training. When the first Freedom Riders arrived in Jackson in 1961, authorities arrested them. The organizers asked for volunteers to ride the next leg of the trip from Jackson to New Orleans. Armstrong volunteered but was promptly arrested before he could board the bus. He was sentenced to four months in jail and a fine. Before entering jail, he and his family learned he had been targeted by a white supremacist group in Jefferson Davis County and he left Mississippi.

Armstrong provided some context that helps explain why the Civil Rights work in the Prentiss Institute community is not more widely known. When the Sovereignty Commission records finally became available for public inspection, he learned that the investigators had kept lists of Jefferson Davis County residents who were active in the NAACP, including some 200 names. These included members of his own family, teachers and family friends that he had never known were involved in the struggle. He

[32] Memorandum, Zack J. VanLandingham to the Director, State Sovereignty Commission, March 13, 1959, Sovereignty Commission Online.
[33] Interview 1/11/2016/
[34] Thomas M. Armstrong and Natalie R. Bell. Autobiography of a Freedom Rider: My Life as a Foot Soldier for Cybil Rights. Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, Inc., 2011.
[35] Armstrong, p. 39-40.

concluded that he "was considered too young to be trusted with such weighty information. The mere mention of NAACP could invite trouble. Therefore, it was just not spoken of openly."[36]

The story of Porah D. Crosby, the wife of Prentiss Institute trustee William V. Crosby, provides further support for the premise that the mere suspicion that a person was active in the NAACP could draw the ire of white segregationists. The Sovereignty Commission investigated Mrs. Crosby in 1963 when she applied for renewal of her commission as a Notary Public. Virgil S. Downing, the Sovereignty Commission investigator, reported: "I was informed by Sheriff Grubb that he knew Porah D. Crosby and her husband, William Vernell Crosby. Sheriff Grubb stated that it was his opinion that William V. Crosby and Porah D. Crosby were members of the NAACP and that the place of their employment, known as Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, located in Prentiss, was a beehive for NAACP members and their activities."[37] Both the Sheriff and the Circuit Clerk, the Hon. James W. Daniels, concluded that because of her ties to the NAACP, "no good would come from granting" Mrs. Crosby a renewal.[38] The report also gives indication that A.L. Johnson was taking a more public role in the civil rights movement by issuing a letter signed by him and on Prentiss Institute stationary "to the colored people of Jefferson Davis County and the surrounding communities that border Jefferson Davis County, stating to them that a campaign was being held to encourage all colored people to select a leader and have meetings to promote the importance of paying poll taxes in their respective counties."[39]

Further research and interviews will be necessary to fully document contributions the Prentiss Institute community made to the struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi. However, based on what is known now, the faculty, staff and students, known and unknown, were actively involved in all types of Civil Rights activities. The founders and later leaders of the school assisted in the development and evolution of the educational philosophies underlying the advancement of African Americans in Mississippi society. Members of the community engaged in core organizing activities from voter education to direct action. The Prentiss Institute was the loci for these activities in Jefferson County and on a wider basis throughout the state.

Conclusion

The Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District and its resources are an important reminder of the struggle for equal educational opportunities for all Mississippi citizens. In an era when the white power structure limited access for African Americans, a number of institutions, organized and operated by African American educators, opened in Mississippi. In addition to the Prentiss Institute, other schools followed the Tuskegee model developed by Booker T. Washington. Henry William Holtzclaw, an Alabama native and graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, founded the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute in Utica, Mississippi in 1902. The Utica Institute moved to its current site in 1910. Holtzclaw led the school until his death in 1943. At that time the school employed 22 teachers and had over 400 students. William Holtzclaw, Jr. followed his father as dean. In 1946, Hinds County assumed control of the school, designating it the Hinds County Agricultural High School. In 1952, the Utica Institute Junior College was established and operated separate from the Agricultural High School. As de jure segregated education came to an end in Mississippi, Utica Junior College and Hinds Junior College merged, and ultimately the

[36] Armstrong, p. 58.
[37] Report of Virgeil S. Downing to the State Sovereignty Commission, January 30, 1963, Sovereignty Commission Online.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Ibid.

Utica campus became one of six locations in the Hinds Community College District. Very little of the early, private campus remains due to these more recent institutional changes.

Dr. Laurence C. Jones, a Missouri native and a graduate of the University of Iowa, served on the faculty of the Utica Institute for two years. He left Utica to establish a school for rural black children in the Piney Woods region of Mississippi. Initially known as the Piney Woods Institute, it became the Piney Woods Country Life School in 1913 by state charter. Jones embraced the educational principles established by Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, establishing a curriculum that combined vocational instruction with rigorous academic studies. Over time, the Piney Woods Country Life School evolved into a residential preparatory school with a national reputation for excellence. Its campus, still operating as a boarding high school, retains many of its early, student-built buildings and potentially would possess both national significance and high enough integrity to qualify for National Historic Landmark designation.

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_____. Tougaloo University.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_X_ previously listed in the National Register
____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
_X_ Other
Name of repository: Prentiss Institute Board of Trustees_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 065-PRN-0100_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22 ac.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

See Continuation Sheet.

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundaries are indicated on the submitted scaled drawing that was based on aerial photographs and information from the Jefferson Davis County Assessor's office.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary represents the historic parcel associated with the subject resource. Additional wooded acreage to the north of the developed portion of the district has been excluded. The deleted land does not contribute to the historic character or setting of the district. The northern boundary for the site is an arbitrary line that extends from the eastern right-of-way along J.E. Johnson Road in a generally easterly direction along a line that if fifty feet north and parallel to the rear elevation of Ransom E., Olds Hall (Resource #4). That line intersects with a line that extends in a generally south-southeasterly direction along the rear line of an intermediate property to the western right-of-way of an unnamed unpaved road to the east of the Magee Family Cemetery (Resource #9).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David B. Schneider
organization: Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC
street & number: 411 E. 6th Street
city or town: Anniston state: AL zip code: 36207
e-mail: dbschneider@bellsouth.net
telephone: 256-310-6320
date: November 21, 2014
Additional text by Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian, and William Gatlin, MDAH Architectural Historian

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Prentiss Institute Historic District

City or Vicinity: Prentiss

County: Jefferson Davis State: MS

Photographer: David B. Schneider

Date Photographed: August 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 20. 1907 House. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 2 of 20. Johnson Gravesite. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 3 of 20. Ransom E. Olds Hall. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 4 of 20. Glattley Hall. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 5 of 20. Olds Hall and Glattley Hall. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 6 of 20. William V. "Bill" Crosby Cafeteria. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 7 of 20. Head Start Building. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 8 of 20. View along Fort Stephens Road. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 9 of 20. Magee Family Cemetery. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 10 of 20. Ruby E. Stutts Lyells Library. Camera facing south.
Photo 11 of 20. Joseph Bancroft Science Building. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 12 of 20. Easom Hall. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 13 of 20. Campus view. Camera facing south.
Photo 14 of 20. Campus view. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 15 of 20. Gymnasium. Camera facing east.
Photo 16 of 20. Campus view. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 17 of 20. Rosenwald Building. Camera facing north.
Photo 18 of 20. Rosenwald Building. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 19 of 20. Rosenwald Building interior. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 20 of 20. View along J. E. Johnson Road. Camera facing southeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum: WG 84

1. Latitude:	31.593014	Longitude:	-89.859997
2. Latitude:	31.592920	Longitude:	-89.856668
3. Latitude:	31.591942	Longitude:	-89.856733
4. Latitude:	31.590814	Longitude:	-89.855082
5. Latitude:	31.589213	Longitude:	-89.856974
6. Latitude:	31.591826	Longitude:	-89.858618

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

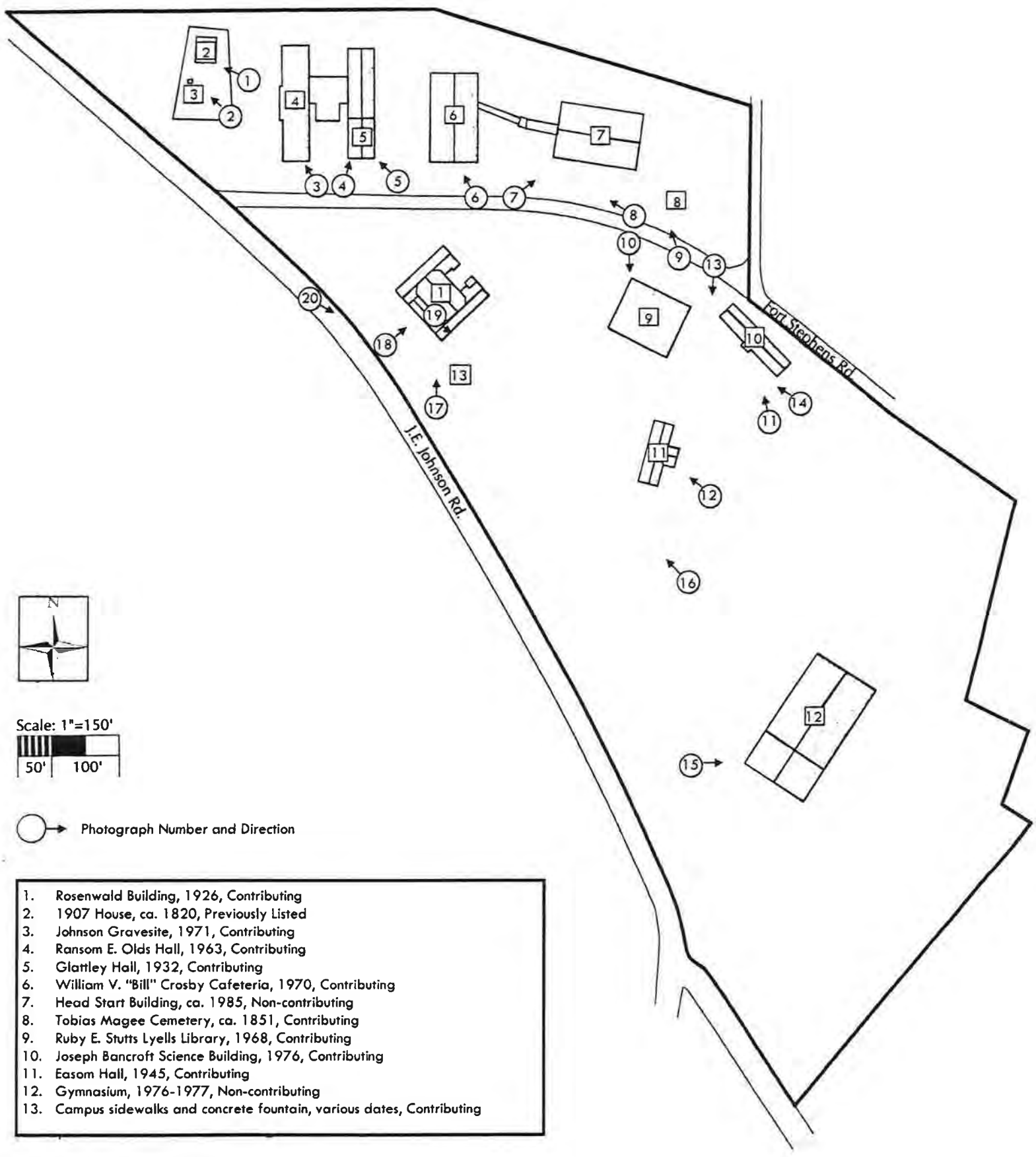
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District
Name of Property
Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 2

Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute Historic District

Prentiss, Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi



1. Rosenwald Building, 1926, Contributing
2. 1907 House, ca. 1820, Previously Listed
3. Johnson Gravesite, 1971, Contributing
4. Ransom E. Olds Hall, 1963, Contributing
5. Glattley Hall, 1932, Contributing
6. William V. "Bill" Crosby Cafeteria, 1970, Contributing
7. Head Start Building, ca. 1985, Non-contributing
8. Tobias Magee Cemetery, ca. 1851, Contributing
9. Ruby E. Stutts Lyells Library, 1968, Contributing
10. Joseph Bancroft Science Building, 1976, Contributing
11. Easom Hall, 1945, Contributing
12. Gymnasium, 1976-1977, Non-contributing
13. Campus sidewalks and concrete fountain, various dates, Contributing

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JOHNSON

JONAS EDWARD
MAY 7, 1879
NOV. 19, 1953

BERTHA LABRANCHE
MAY 7, 1882
FEB. 24, 1971

LIVES DEDICATED TO UNSELFISH SERVICE OF THEIR FELLOWMAN

RANSOM E OLDS
HALL

WM. V. "BILL" CROSBY
CAFETERIA
CAFETERIA STAFF PARKING

DO NOT
BLOCK
DRIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH AREA

TOBIAS MAGEE
ESTATE

TOBIAS MAGEE
ESTATE
TOBIAS MAGEE
CEMETERY
1851

P.N.I.I.
LITTLE THEATER
BUILDING