National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received FEB 2 5 1980 date entered APR 1 7 19

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

<u>1.</u>	Nam	е							
histori	c Amite	Female Semin	nary						
and/or	common	Little Re	ed_School	house					
2.	Loca	ition							<u></u>
street	& number	M S Highway 56	59					not for publi	cation
city, to	own Lib	erty		vi	cinity of	congressio	nal district	Fourth	
state	Missi	ssippi	code	28	county	Amite	Carriera.	code	28
3.	Clas	sificatio	on						
x b si	istrict uilding(s) tructure	OwnershipX public private both Public Acquisi in process being cons		Accessib x yes: re	upied n progress le	comi	culture mercial cational rtainment crnment strial	_X museum park private ro religious scientific transpor other:	esidence
4.	Own	er of Pr	opert	y					
name	Amite C	ounty Board o	of Superv	isors		4		1.14	
street	& number	Amite Cour	nty Court	house				4.1 18 18	
city, to	own Lib	erty		vi	cinity of		state	Mississippi	39645
5.	Loca	ation of	Lega	l Des	cripti	on			
	ouse, regis & number	stry of deeds, etc. Amite Cou			ne Chancer	ry Clerk			
city, to	own	Liberty					state	Mississippi	39645
6.	Repr	esentat	tion i	n Exi	sting	Surve	/S		
title	-	de Survey of				operty been de		legible? ye	s no
date	1975					fede	ral <u>X</u> sta	ate county	local
depos	itory for su	rvey records	Mississi	ippi Depa	artment of	f Archives	and Hist	ory	
city, to	Jac own	kson					state	Mississippi	39205

7. Description

X excellent deteriorated _	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Amite Female Seminary museum faces north on Highway 569, near the center of the town of Liberty, the Amite county seat. The only extant structure left from the original group of frame buildings which comprised the campus of the Amite Female Seminary, the building is a two-story gable-front three-by-three-bay brick structure which survived the destruction of the rest of the campus by Union troops in 1863. On the front (north) elevation a well-proportioned double gallery is supported by modified Tuscan columns, and surmounted by a frame pediment with a board-and-batten tympanum. The tympanum was originally finished with horizontal flush-boarded members which were replaced by the present configuration during the repair of the structure in 1979. The gallery pediment is framed by a simple boxed cornice with returns. The original boarded porch rails on the second floor of the gallery were replaced by wrought iron fencing; and the gallery stairs, which led to the central second floor entrance, was removed. The windowless rear (south) elevation features a striking stepped roof parapet, with an exterior stair (added in 1979) leading to a second-floor entrance door. Fenestration on the side and front elevations consists of six-over-six-light double-hung sash framed by flat-faced architraves. An interesting bowed-gable frame gazebo is situated approximately ten feet northwest of the building. The gazebo is built on a solid brick foundation with latticed walls and wool-shingled roof and pediment. The interior of the structure features a single room on each floor, with plastered brick walls. The museum has not yet been completely furnished.

8. Significance

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture x architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics	politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1853	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1853, the Amite Female Seminary museum is an important symbol of the private educational academies which flourished in the town of Liberty during the nineteenth century. Retaining its original roof, side-wall and gallery configurations, the structure possesses a fair degree of architectural integrity.

The Amite Female Seminary was established in 1853 by the Rev. Milton S. Shirk, under the administration of the Mississippi Baptist Association. The school was one of three private female academies in Liberty, the other two being the Amite County Female Academy (1859) and Liberty and Female College of Liberty (1890). The well-rounded educational program of the school included literature, history, science, mathematics, modern languages, philosophy, music and physical education courses. Its student body was comprised of young women from Amite and the surrounding Mississippi counties, as well as a few from Louisiana and Texas. In 1863, during its tenth year of successful operation, the school buildings were burned by Union troops. The extant music building survived the destruction, and was used subsequently by the town of Liberty as a schoolhouse. From 1968 until 1975 the building was used as a public library. Repair and the planned reuse of the structure as a museum after 1975 was initiated by the Amite River Chapter of the Mississippi Daughters of the American Revolution, and repairs were completed in 1979 under the direction of the Amite County Board of Supervisors.

The architectural significance of the building was diminished after the removal of some of the original building fabric when repairs were made during the past year, including the removal of the original entrance door, gallery stair and window sash. However, these changes do not detract from the overall proportions and curious small scale of the building. The building retains its two major architectural features—the Greek Revival double gallery on the front facade, and the stepped—gable roof parapet on the rear elevation. The stepped gable is an especially interesting Adamesque detail associated also with two residences in Amite County constructed during the same ten year period: the Talbert-Cassels House and the Winston Wilkinson House.

Amite County and Liberty, Mississippi Sesqui-Centennial. Gloster, Miss.: Wilk-Amite Record, 1959. Catalogue of the Officers and Pupils of the Amite Female Seminary. Nashville, Tenn.: Graves, Marks and Company, 1856. **Geographical Data** 10. Acreage of nominated property less than one Quadrangle name __Liberty_ ladrangle scale **UMT References** Verbal boundary description and justification See boundary line on enclosed sketch map. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code state code county code Form Prepared By name/title Research Consultant Jack A. Gold January, 1980 date organization 601/354-7326 street & number 811 Fairview Street telephone Mississippi Jackson state city or town **State Historic Preservation Officer Certification** The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: X local _ national state As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. Um R. Willia State Historic Preservation Officer signature February 15, 1980 State Historic Preservation Officer title date For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Keeper of the National Register



