

Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister Home National Historic Site
Vicksburg, Mississippi

MDAH
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

General Management/ Interpretation Plan



January 2023

General Management Plan/ Interpretation Plan Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister Home National Historic Site Vicksburg, Mississippi

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established \$1.9 trillion in COVID-19 relief funding, including \$350 billion State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to aid state and local fiscal recovery¹. Specifically, the ARPA provides that “SLFRF funds may be used to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.” The Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister House Museum Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit foundation registered in the State of Mississippi, plans to create a museum in Vicksburg in the home of Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister. The museum will be a beacon of hope for present and future generations, and it shall create local jobs; increase tourism, travel, and aid the hospitality sector in Vicksburg and Warren County².

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History recognized Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister Home a Mississippi Historic Site (referred to as site or national historic site in this document) on April 21, 2017 with a historic marker³. The site will be developed to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations the home (and legacy) of the nation’s first black woman to receive the PhD in education and preeminent leader in higher education Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister, professor at Fisk University, Virginia State, Morgan State, Hampton Institute, Miner Teachers College, and Jackson State University. As a new unit of a Historic Black Corridor that will showcase both the City of Vicksburg and the State of Mississippi, the iconic civil rights locations in Mississippi, the national historic site has not had a previous comprehensive planning effort. *This **General Management Plan / Interpretation Plan*** presents and analyzes directions for the future management and use of Jane Ellen McAllister Home National Historic Site. The national historic site includes McAllister’s home at 1403 Main Street, Vicksburg, MS, and land adjacent to it.

This document examines the development, use, and management of the national historic site. Preservation efforts would include restoring or stabilizing the façades of McAllister’s home (1403 Main Street) and improving the adjacent land. Periodic minor repairs would be made to the interiors of the historic structure. Visitors would experience the site from the outside via interpretive wayside exhibits in front of McAllister’s home and an interpretive walking tour of the neighborhood. The historic structures would not be open to visitors. Interpretation and education staff would be hired to manage the day-to-day operations of the site. Their offices would be located off-site.

The plan calls for the acquisition of the home, the restoration of the façades of McAllister’s home, and the rehabilitation of the rear of building. The interior of the McAllister home would be restored to the time period Dr. McAllister lived there (1910-1996). The interiors of 1403 Main Street would be rehabilitated to provide space for interpretive exhibits, offices for the Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister House Museum Foundation Inc. associates, access (via an elevator, wheelchair lift), retail sales, mechanical systems, and restrooms. The proposed development of the land adjacent to 1403 Main Street would be determined after the designing and the building of a structure whose space would be used for educational programs, interpretive exhibits, public meetings, classroom activities, administrative purposes, and restrooms. The interpretation plan would be fully implemented, and visitors would experience the site through interpretive exhibits, videos, and programs inside the structures, including a staff-guided tour of McAllister’s home. There would also be interpretive wayside exhibits in front of McAllister’s home and a walking tour of the neighborhood. Interpretation and education staff would be hired to manage the day-to-day operations of the site. The offices for these employees would be located at the national historic site.

The potential environmental impacts of the plans will need to be identified and assessed. In the absence of an environmental impact study, it is assumed that the implementation of the plan would result in moderate, adverse, site-specific, long-term impacts to the historic structure; long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience; short- and long-term, beneficial impacts to the socioeconomic environment; and long-term, beneficial impacts to job creation, increased tourism, hospitality revenue generation, and museum operations. This General Management Plan / Interpretation Plan has been distributed to interested agencies, organizations, and individuals for their review and financial support.

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ2/PLAW-117publ2.pdf>

² The ARPA adds section 602 of the Social Security Act, which creates the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and section 603 of the Social Security Act, which creates the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (together, SLFRF). Sections 602 and 603 contain substantially similar eligible uses; the primary difference between the two sections is that section 602 establishes a fund for states, territories, and Tribal governments and section 603 establishes a fund for metropolitan cities, nonentitlement units of local government, and counties.

³ Mississippi Department of Archives and History Historic Resources Inventory. <https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/prop.aspx?id=28888&view=facts&y=728>



Message From Dr. Bettye J. Gardner, Executive Director Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister House Museum Foundation Inc.

We are seeking funding for the Jane McAllister house at 1403 Main Street. This house was the long-time residence of Vicksburg native, Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister (1899-1996). Dr. McAllister was a nationally renowned professor and the first African American woman in the United States to earn a Ph.D. in Education. She received her undergraduate degree from Talladega College in Alabama (1919), a Master's degree from the University of Michigan (1922), and a Ph.D. from Columbia University (1929). Dr. McAllister later taught at Fisk University, Virginia State, Morgan State, Hampton Institute, Miner Teachers Cottage, and Jackson State University before retiring in 1970. Dr. McAllister's sister, Dorothy McAllister, was a well-known librarian at Howard University and was instrumental in the establishment of the Etta O'Neil Branch Library on Walnut Street. At the time it was built the main library had not been integrated. (This is taken from the Archives Fact Sheet).

Her home built in 1910 was named an historic landmark in 2017 and received an Historic Marker in 2019. ***As the only African American home in Vicksburg designated a Landmark, we have a rare opportunity to tell Dr. McAllister's story through the lens of the 20th Century experiences of African Americans in Vicksburg and the nation.*** Her impressive achievements in the field of education deserve to be showcased in the home where she lived her entire life. The National Park Service has long understood the importance of historic places defining them "as places that have powerful and provocative stories to tell". Elizabeth Alexander, CEO of the Mellon Foundation reminds us often of the "Urgent and Sacred Mission of Saving Black History Sites" (Preservation Magazine). Of the 95,000 sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, only 3% focus on the experiences of African Americans. The President of the Trust for Public Land states that "tangible spaces whether buildings or properties, etc., play a critical role in constructing our collective memory. It is critical that we have the opportunity to reflect on, learn from, and honor our past". Dr. McAllister's home is a tangible space which provides a context for all of the other African American spaces to be woven into the history of Vicksburg.

Her home will tell the story of her extraordinary career in higher education covering five decades. While teaching at Southern University in Louisiana in the mid-1920s, Dr. Allister became interested in the education provided for Black children. Seventy-five percent of the Black population lived in rural areas and educational opportunities were scarce. Southern University's Teacher Training Program was the only certified program for Black teachers in the state. It was this interest that led her to leave her position at Southern and to begin her Ph.D. work at Columbia University. Her advisor at Columbia commented "the real history of the study of American Negro Education on the advanced level began with Jane McAllister's pioneering dissertation on The Training of Negro Teachers in Louisiana".

After retiring from Miner Teachers College in 1951, she returned to Mississippi and Jackson College where she taught from 1951 to her retirement in 1969. Under her guidance, Jackson College became an academic showcase for her many talents. It was there that she transformed the College through several programs including a college readiness program for prominent high school students, a state-wide Superior and Talented Student Project for Black high schools and an institute for teachers of disadvantaged students. One of her students reflected a few years ago "that she was one of the Colleges' premier instructors . . . and the students were in awe of her sense of excitement which she brought to her classroom". The MS Historical Society meeting in March has planned a session on "Three African American Women in MS History. one of whom is Dr. McAllister, and I will make the presentation on her.

Clearly, Dr. Mc Allister is deserving of this recognition.

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Dr. McAllister was a nationally renowned professor and the first African American woman in the United States to earn a doctorate in education. She received her undergraduate degree from Talladega College in Alabama (1919), a Masters degree from the University of Michigan (1922), and a Ph.D from Columbia University (1929). Dr. McAllister later taught at Fisk University, Virginia State, Morgan State, Hampton Institute, Miner Teachers College, and Jackson State University before retiring in 1970. Dr. McAllister's sister, Dorothy McAllister, was a well-known librarian at Howard University.

This house was the long-time residence of Vicksburg native Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister (1910-1996).

This house is mentioned in "Buildings of Mississippi" (2020) (p.77, in the listing for the Jackson Street Missionary Baptist Church, YB15).

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History recognized Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister Home a Mississippi Historic Site (referred to as site or national historic site in this document) on April 21, 2017 with a historic marker.

The site will be developed to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations the home (and legacy) of Dr. McAllister.

As a new unit of a Historic Black Corridor that will showcase both the City of Vicksburg and the State of Mississippi, the iconic civil rights locations in Mississippi, the national historic site has not had a previous comprehensive planning effort. This **General Management Plan / Interpretation Plan** presents and analyzes directions for the future management and use of Jane Ellen McAllister Home National Historic Site. The national historic site includes McAllister's home at 1403 Main Street, Vicksburg, MS, and land adjacent to it.

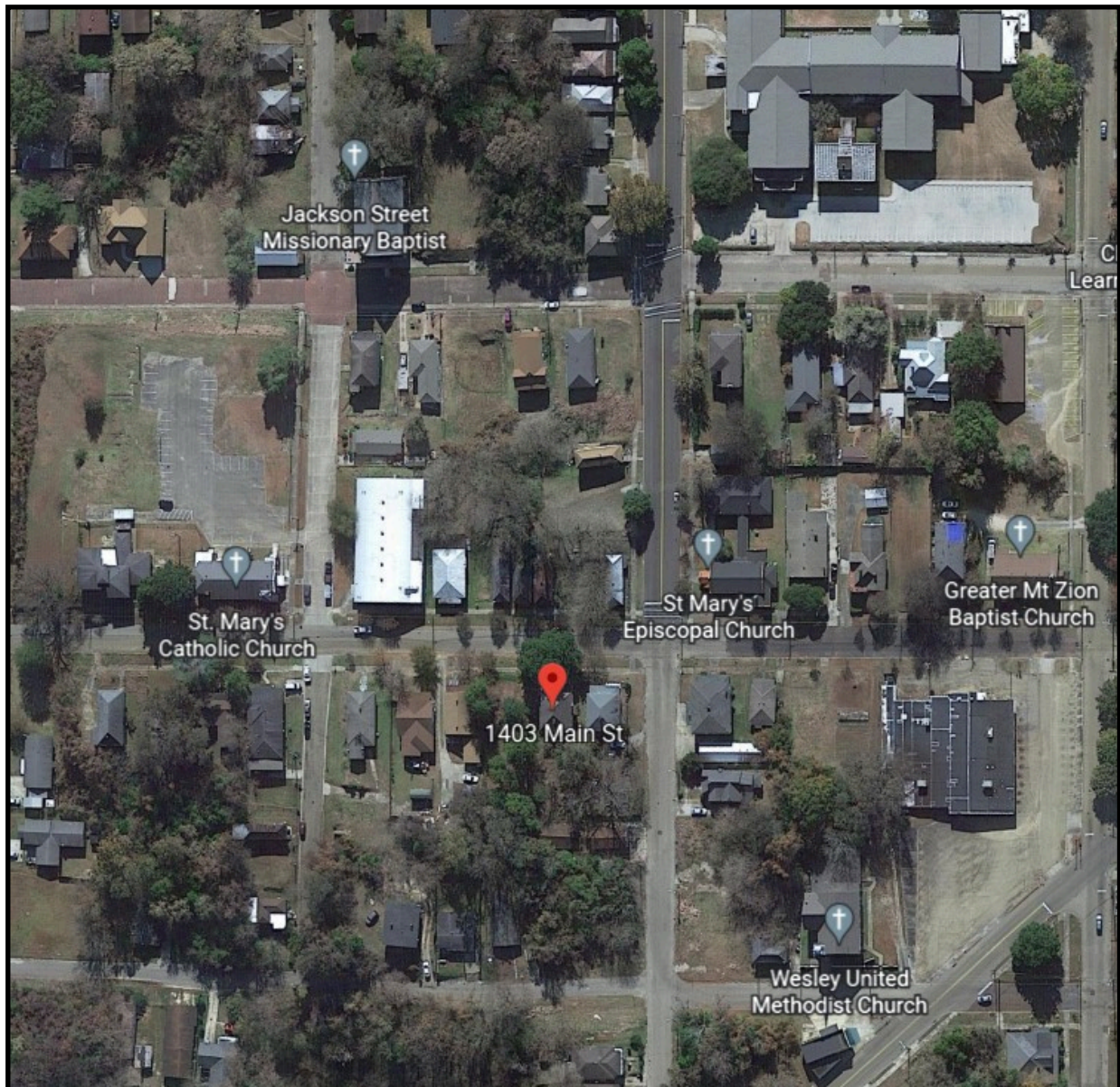


As seen from left of the MS Department of Archives and History Historic Marker: Dr. McAllister's two-story home .

THE SITE

The Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister House Museum will be the only African American museum in Vicksburg to tell the collective story of African Americans during the early decades of the 20th Century. Dr. McAllister's own story begins with her graduation from high school in 1915 and her powerful impact on education over 50 years of the 20th Century.

Through an exhibit gallery and other interpretive resources, the Museum will document the history of African Americans in Vicksburg who created a vibrant African American Community of organizations, Institutions and businesses that laid the foundation for generations that followed.



Search Results	Fact Sheet	Architectural	Photos	Map
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Location Information

(for the McAllister house)

Name: McAllister house
Address: 1403 Main Street
City/County: Vicksburg, Warren County

Architectural Information

Construction Date: c.1910
No. of Stories: 2

Mississippi Landmark Information

Designated: 04-21-2017
Recorded: 05-26-2017
Book/Vol. No.: BK 1606 PG 408

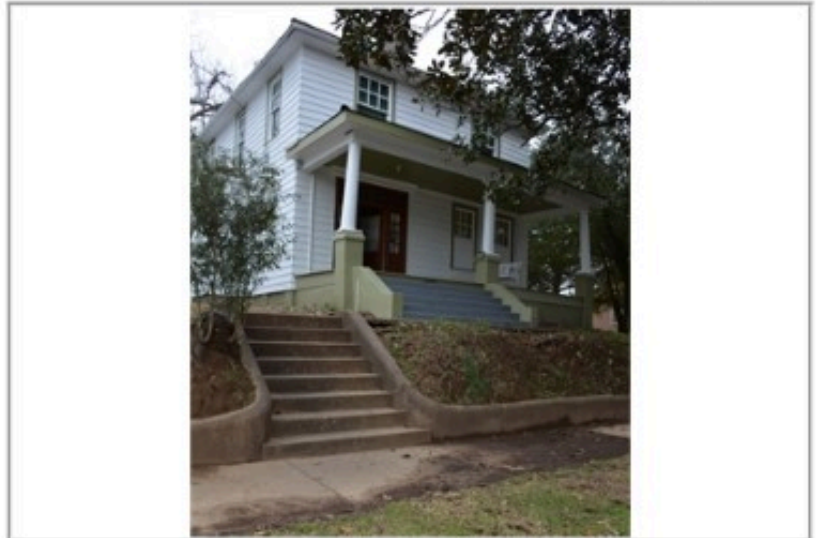
Context/Comments

This house was the long-time residence of Vicksburg native Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister (1899-1996). Dr. McAllister was a nationally renowned professor and the first African American woman in the United States to earn a doctorate in education. She received her undergraduate degree from Talladega College in Alabama (1919), a Masters degree from the University of Michigan (1922), and a Ph.D from Columbia University (1929). Dr. McAllister later taught at Fisk University, Virginia State, Morgan State, Hampton Institute, Miner Teachers Cottage, and Jackson State University before retiring in 1970. Dr. McAllister's sister, Dorothy McAllister, was a well-known librarian at Howard University.

This building is mentioned in "Buildings of Mississippi" (2020) (p.77, in the listing for the Jackson Street Missionary Baptist Church, YB15).

1-17-2017

Jennifer Baughn, MDAH



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USE OF FUNDS

Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister House Museum Foundation Inc. Budget

DR. JANE ELLEN MCALLISTER HOME	\$159,000.00
REPAIR & MAINT - MUSEUM INTERIOR	\$15,445.00
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE EXTERIOR	\$5,395.00
KITCHEN EXPENSE -MUSEUM PROG	\$3,911.00
UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE	\$3,883.00
TELEPHONE - MUSEUM PROG	\$2,800.00
EQUIPMENT-MUSEUM PROG	\$2,701.00
ACCOUNTING	\$2,010.00
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$1,941.00
GRDS & GDN MAINT - FACILITY USE	\$1,780.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE - MUSEUM PROG	\$1,397.00
ELECTRIC - FACILITY USE	\$1,063.00
WATER & SEWAGE -MUSEUM PROG	\$1,021.00
JANITORIAL SVC - MUSEUM PROG	\$892.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	\$89.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$817.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT-MUSEUM PROG	\$784.00
REPAIR & MAINT - FACILITY USE	\$673.00
PRINTING- MUSEUM PROG	\$1,580.00
KITCHEN EXPENSE - FACILITY USE	\$483.00
TELEPHONE - FACILITY USE	\$346.00
EQUIPMENT REPAIR- FACILITY USE	\$334.00
ALARM MONITOR FEES - MUSEUM	\$299.00
ALARM/FIRE INSPECT-MUSEUM PROG	\$140.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE - FACILITY USE	\$173.00
WATER & SEWAGE - FACILITY USE	\$126.00
JANITORIAL SVC - FACILITY USE	\$110.00
POSTAGE	\$105.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT - FACILITY USE	\$97.00
ALARM MONITOR FEES - FACILITY	\$370.00
ALARM/FIRE INSPECT-FACILITY	\$260.00
OCCUPANCY - MUSEUM PROG	<u>\$100.00</u>
TOTAL	\$210,125.00

Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister Home National Historic Site

Vicksburg, Mississippi



SUPPORTERS

DR. WILLIAM R. FERRIS JR., PhD
Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History
Senior Associate Director Emeritus
Center for Study of the American South
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Advisory Council
African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

DEMOND "BRENT" LEGGS
National Trust for Historic Preservation
African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

ROBERT M. WALKER
Former Mayor of The City of Vicksburg

ROBERT CREAR
Brigadier General, Retired
Rye Development
Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign

SENATOR W. BRIGGS HOPSON, III, JD
Mississippi State Senate
23rd District

REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR DENTON
Mississippi House of Representatives
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Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area

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