



LAYOUT OF PROPOSED NEW PARK IN CLINTON  
Along Old Natchez Trace Route In Northeast Part of City

# Clinton — Fast Growing City

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## The Weekender

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Sunday Editor

Clinton is one of the oldest towns in the state and at the time it lost by one vote to Jackson to become the capital city it was one of the largest towns of Mississippi.

But, as time went on, Clinton became a little town and stayed that way — until about 15 years ago.

That was when it started to sprout new houses like a forest that had been replanted.

Of the 2461 houses in Clinton today, 1682 have been built since 1960. The population has jumped from a 1960 count of 3438 to an estimated 13,500-plus today. Forecasts that seem quite realistic say it will be 18,000 by 1980 and 40,000 by 1990.

New subdivisions have been opened all a/ound the town during the past 15 years to hold the average of more than 100 houses built each year. And 69 apartment complexes, some of them quite expansive, have also been added.

Along with this construction, 112 new commercial buildings have been built as Clinton begins to boast its own shopping districts. For years there were only a few stores and Clintonians, most of whom worked — and still do — in Jackson, shopped in the larger city.

Every indicator of growth is naturally much higher in the era of the sudden "finding" of Clinton by so many residents.

Mayor Charles Blass, who became the town's chief elected official in 1969, has watched his town burst at the seams and, with the aldermen, has tried to have the city government and services keep pace

with the exploding population.

That the city fathers have been able to do as much as they have without a tax increase — except for a one-half mill levy for the new library — seems remarkable. The water rates were raised last year and a sewage charge was put on a few years ago, but the basic tax rate has remained the same. School taxes, of course, have gone up as they have almost everywhere.

During the expansion period, the city limits have been extended several times. The town had two square miles of area some years ago and now includes more than eight square miles. It has grown in every direction except the east where the line was moved only a short distance — to Shaw Road. That was the line past which both Jackson and Clinton agreed, years ago, not to go. Jackson has not quite reached Shaw Road, but Clinton's eastern limits is now at that point.

It has been north — of Northside Drive — and south, for nearly two miles — that the greatest number of new subdivisions have been opened.

Sales tax receipts of the town have jumped from \$75,450.95 in 1969-70 to \$216,570 for 1974-75.

In just the past three years, the tax assessment roll has increased

by more than \$6 million.

School enrollments always are a great reflector of population increases and in this regard, Clinton's schools have followed the trend. There were 2704 enrolled for the 1970-71 school year and for this year the number has already passed 4263.

To follow the growth pattern a bit further, consider that in 1900 the population of Clinton was 354. By 1910 it had reached 767. It dropped to 669 by 1920, following World War I, and jumped to 912 by 1930. The next ten years held quite stable, the '40 census showing a gain of only four, to 916.

There was a drop of about 200 in the 1945 report, believed due to World War II, but by 1950 people had begun to locate there again and the population was 2255.

In the past three years some 23 miles of the city's 55 miles of streets (and many of those miles are newly paved streets in the new subdivisions) have been resurfaced. The former volunteer fire department has been up dated with 11 full time employees and the police force has increased from the one man of 20 years ago to 13 full time, trained officers today.

Currently, plans are underway to build a new park in a triangle of land adjacent to the old Natchez Trace in the northeast corner of the city, bounded on the east by Cynthia Road.

Another well is to be dug soon to add to the city's water supply.

Clinton, incorporated Feb. 12, 1829, will be 147 during America's bicentennial next year.