

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 9 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Brownrigg-Harris-Kennebrew House

AND/OR COMMON

Temple Heights

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

515 Ninth Street North

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Lowndes

CODE

12787

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Butler III

STREET & NUMBER

515 Ninth Street North

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Second Avenue North

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi 39701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20540

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Temple Heights, a frame, temple-form house produced in two building phases, dominates its steeply sloping, terraced lot on the corner of Ninth Street North and Sixth Avenue North in Columbus, Mississippi. The rear service yard, located south of the house on the downgrade, is divided into two tiers by low brick retaining walls and is crisscrossed by brick walkways. Built into the side of the hill, the nearly square, clapboarded, gable-roofed structure stands two and a half stories high, with a full basement under the southern or rear portion. Exterior paved, single-shoulder chimneys on the western elevation are laid in common bond. Nine-over-nine windows on the first level of the three-bay dwelling diminish to six-over-nine on the second and third levels. All windows feature Grecian surrounds set with end blocks and are fitted with operable louvered blinds that retain their original latch-type hardware.

Because of the location of the house on a corner lot, both the eastern and northern sides are treated as principal elevations. On the northern elevation the entrance, set with a single-leaf, eight-panel door and a transom with muntins arranged in a diamond pattern, is placed in the easternmost bay. On the more prominently detailed east elevation or gable end, the entrance is in the center. The tripartite frontispiece is composed of side lights and a transom which also feature the muntins set in a diamond pattern. The design is echoed on the second and third levels, where both central sashes are flanked by identical side lights presently hidden behind the blinds. Scars indicate that both doorways were originally sheltered by small entrance porches that apparently were removed to accommodate the present portico.

The rear elevation is sheltered by an inset gallery set on an arcaded, stuccoed brick foundation that also serves as a covered passageway for the basement room. The fenestration repeats that of the north elevation with the addition of a second-level, exterior door serviced by a plain staircase set against the building. Hinges in the balustrade at the western end of the gallery indicate that a flight of steps once connected the gallery and the lower-level kitchen and service yard.

About 1854, the house was remodeled in accordance with the prevalent Greek Revival fashion. Since the existing house had a rear gallery as well as two fronts that would require reworking, a giant-order Doric portico was constructed, incorporating the rear gallery and continuing around the two facades. Attempting to emulate an academic Doric peristyle, the portico with its stylized triglyphed frieze somewhat awkwardly crosses the gable end, converting the house into a regional expression of a monumental temple form.

The interior of the house is arranged according to the side-hall plan and features the effective use of chaste Grecian detailing. The graciously proportioned hall running the depth of the double-pile house is wainscoted below the chair rail. Rising at the southern end of the hall is a wide, dog-leg staircase with plain balusters, continuous-ramped handrail that swirls at the newel, and ogee-arched soffit. Flat, scrolled consoles decorate each step end. The double parlors, joined by large, double-leaf, eight-panel doors matching those used throughout the first level, are treated identically. In each room the four windows feature full-length fluted surrounds set with rondel endblocks and fielded-panel spandrels with flat, asymmetrical molding. The post-and-lintel mantels

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1837

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Temple Heights is a significant and, in Mississippi, unique interpretation of the Greek Revival temple-form house. Its style is derived from the ca. 1854 addition of a giant-order Doric portico to the rear and to the two principal elevations of an earlier, vernacular house built by Richard T. Brownrigg in 1837. The original two-story frame house, with its inset gallery and broken slope gable roof on the rear, its exterior end brick chimneys, and its side-hall plan with three entrances, is a form more commonly associated with Brownrigg's native eastern North Carolina than Mississippi. The structure thus appears to be a conscious attempt to reproduce a familiar form. Brownrigg, a successful planter and one of the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Columbus, Mississippi, moved his family from Chowan County, North Carolina, in 1835.

The Choctaw Indian territory ceded to the state of Mississippi by the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek included the rich Black Belt lands that attracted land-hungry planters from the East. Acting on the advice of his brother-in-law Richard Hoskins, who proclaimed the region ". . . rich beyond expectation," Richard Thomas Brownrigg, a wealthy and cultured North Carolinian who had served as a member of that state's legislature, moved his family to the Columbus area. The Brownrigg family papers, deposited in the Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina, recount the migration of the entourage, which included eleven members of the Brownrigg family, ninety-one Negroes, and a host of wagons, mules, and horses, from North Carolina over the Great Smoky Mountains to Mississippi. Initially, the family settled south of town on an estate that was part of the two sections of land awarded to John Pitchlynn by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in recognition of his forty years of service as interpreter for the United States government to the Choctaw Indians (Deed Book 1:192).

From the female perspective, life on that plantation in the newly opened territory was far from ideal. Sarah Sparkman, Brownrigg's married daughter, complained, "I have not seen a lady to speak to since I have been here. They say they do not visit in winter as the roads are so bad. . . . The mud is as adhesive as wax and the water is very questionable. You have to boil lye in it to purify it" (Brownrigg Family Papers). As did numerous other eastern Mississippi planters, Brownrigg subsequently chose the convenience of a more settled location and built one of the earliest town houses in the burgeoning community of Columbus. Constructed in 1837, the Brownrigg house is stylistically very similar in plan and form to houses in the builder's native North Carolina, such as the 1812-16 Smallwood Ward House in New Bern, the interior arrangement of which is repeated in Temple Heights.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina, Wilson Library. Brownrigg Family Papers.
Lowndes County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	3 6 7 3 7 6 8 0 0	3 7 0 7 6 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The entire Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Square Number 28 and a strip of land five feet wide across the entire north side of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Square 28, all being in Square Number 28, north of Main Street, in and according to the plan of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, on the southwest corner of Ninth Street North and Sixth Avenue North.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mary McCahon Shoemaker, Architectural Historian
Carl H. Butler III, Owner of Temple Heights

ORGANIZATION	MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY	DATE	JANUARY 16, 1978
STREET & NUMBER	P. O. Box 571	TELEPHONE	(601) 354-6218
CITY OR TOWN	Jackson	STATE	MISSISSIPPI 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Elmer R. Hilliard*
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE February 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>M. Cole</i>	DATE 5-22-78
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>M. Cole</i>	DATE 5-5-78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 - 8 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites
1973 X State
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson Mississippi 39205

7 - DESCRIPTION

reputedly represent the earliest instance of the use of marble mantels in a Columbus home.

Both upper levels repeat the same basic room arrangement, with the addition of a small chamber at the southern end of the hall. Each primary room has plaster walls and a molded chair rail. With the exception of the southern room on the third level, which has no fireplace, each room also has a wooden, late Federal-style mantel. Many of the doors in the upper-level rooms retain their painted and grained finish, executed after 1854. The stiles and rails are painted in imitation of tiger maple, while the panels are a lighter-colored wood.

The basement area, serviced by a partially enclosed staircase under the main staircase, has been converted to a modern kitchen by the present owners. Believed to have originally served as the dining room, the area had a large fireplace and a floor laid in square, brick pavers.

Two outbuildings of a later date than the house are located in the rear service yard. A frame, two-room quarter of late nineteenth-century origin is southwest of the main house. Directly behind the house on the second terrace is a small, frame, single-room structure set on brick piers, its stepped, single-shoulder exterior chimney positioned on the back wall. The latter structure may have served as an office for Thomas Harris.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Brownrigg and his family, including his son John, who went on to become a prominent local physician, are typical of those who in the 1840s helped create a highly cultured and civilized lifestyle in a wilderness town. Richard Brownrigg was active in Whig party politics and was the first senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, serving in that capacity from the founding of the church in 1837 until his death in 1846.

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Business failures forced Brownrigg's widow to sell the Temple Heights property at public auction in 1847. It was purchased by Thomas W. Harris, a local attorney from Georgia, who, as a member of the firm of Underwood and Harris, represented the Cherokee Indians in their resistance to removal from Georgia to Oklahoma. The HARRISES "updated" the appearance of the house by the addition of the Greek Revival Doric-columned portico that graces the three principal elevations, producing a rare regional example of a carpenter's interpretation of a temple-form house. Although it is not unusual to find an earlier house restyled in the Grecian mode by the addition of a portico (as at Monmouth in Natchez, where a new facade and three-bay portico were added in 1853 to an 1820 Federal-style house), the addition of a giant-order portico wrapping three sides of a house is an example of highly individualistic remodeling in Mississippi.

The HARRISES occupied Temple Heights until 1867, when it was sold to a widow, Frances Jane Butler Garrett Fontaine, one of three local women traditionally credited with having begun the custom of annually decorating the graves of the Civil War dead. J. F. Kennebrew acquired the house in 1887, and it served as his home and then the home of his five daughters until 1965, when the present owners purchased it from the two surviving heirs. The house required only minor restoration work to return it to its ca. 1854 appearance.



PHOTO NO. 1⁰⁴- TEMPLE HEIGHTS
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Mary McCahon Shoemaker
December, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and
History
Eastern elevation

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Bank for this
10-45

PHOTO NO. 2²⁻⁴ TEMPLE HEIGHTS

Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

December, 1977

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

North and western elevations, from the north-
west

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PHOTO NO. 3⁴ TEMPLE HEIGHTS
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Mary McCahon Shoemaker
December, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and
History
Southern and eastern elevations, from the
southeast

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PHOTO NO. 4⁸⁴ - TEMPLE HEIGHTS
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi
Mary McCahon Shoemaker
December, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and
History
Northern parlor, looking west

MAY 22 1978

FEB 9 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES