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4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY		مرقمني ، ه آه		· · ·
NAME Mr and M	rs. Carl H. Butler I	тт			6 L
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6 REPRESENT	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVE	719		la la∎ +
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SURVEY RECORDS	Library of Congress		<u> </u>		
CITY, TOWN	- i t			STATE	205/0
Wash	nington			D.C.	20540

## 7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	NE
XEXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED		SITE
GOOD	RUINS	X_ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	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 fieldedpanel spandrels with flat, asymmetrical molding. The post-and-lintel mantels

## **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT** 

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1837

SPECIFIC DATES

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, ninty-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

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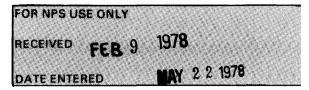
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 COL	INTIES FOR PROPERTIES	OVERLAPPING STATE	OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
FORM PREPARED BY	7		
NAME/TITLE Mary McCahon Sho			
ORGANIZATION			DATE
Mississippi Depa	artment of Archive	s and History	January 16, 1978
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 571			telephone (601) 354-6218
CITY OR TOWN		и К.	state Mississippi 39205
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 6 - 8 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites1973X StateMississippi Department of Archives and HistoryJacksonMississippi 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 Federalstyle 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.

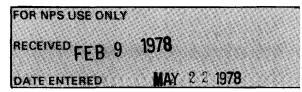
The basement area, serviced by a partially enclosed staircase under the main staircase, has been converted to a modern kitchen by the present owners. Believed to have originally served as the dining room, the area had a large fireplace and a floor laid in square, brick pavers.

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, singleshoulder 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. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

#### 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 threebay 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. 1<sup>9</sup> TEMPLE HEIGHTS Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi Mary McCahon Shoemaker December, 1977 Mississippi Department of Archives and History Eastern elevation

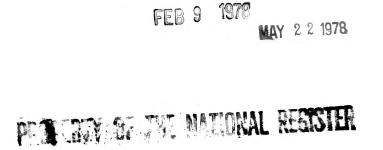




PHOTO NO. 2 TEMPLE HEIGHTS Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi Mary McCahon Shoemaker December, 1977 Mississippi Department of Archives and History North and western elevations, from the northwest

FEB 9 1978 MAY 2 2 1978





PHOTO NO. 3 TEMPLE HEIGHTS Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi Mary McCahon Shoemaker December, 1977 Mississippi Department of Archives and History Southern and eastern elevations, from the southeast

FEB 9 1978 MAY 2 2 1978





PHOTO NO. 4 - TEMPLE HEIGHTS Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi Mary McCahon Shoemaker December, 1977 Mississippi Department of Archives and History Northern parlor, looking west

FEB 9 1978

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