NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Perkins House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Murphy-Hardy Road NA☐ not for publication

city or town DeKalb X☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Kemper code 28 zip code 39328

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P'Pool May 20, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

for Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action 6/24/94

Perkins House
Name of Property

Kemper County, Mississippi
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic
Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic
Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick and limestone
walls weatherboard
roof tin
other wood porch
brick chimneys

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Perkins House
Name of Property

Kemper County, Mississippi
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Art

Period of Significance

ca. 1870
ca. 1890

Significant Dates

ca. 1870
ca. 1890

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown
Mr. Mayer (artist responsible for ornamental painting, ca. 1890)

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
_____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

Perkins House
Name of Property

Kemper County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	329020	3620520
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Fazio, Architect

organization _____ date 17 February 1994

street & number P. O. Box 2870 telephone (601) 323-3451

city or town Starkville state MS zip code 39762

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Beatrice Koostra

street & number 311 Washington St. telephone _____

city or town Macon state MS zip code 39341

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

7. Narrative Description

The Perkins House is a diminutive, transverse-gabled, wood-frame structure located on Murphy Hardy Road some one-and-one-half miles due west of Moscow, Mississippi in a sparsely settled southwest portion of Kemper County. The building's form is suggestive of an I-house but contains only one story of liveable space; two windows in each endwall light only an inaccessible attic. Shed-roofed porches extend across the full extent of the front and rear facades. Each endwall has a central brick chimney.

The first floor plan under the gable roof consists of single 15' by 17' rooms astride a central passage. The porches cover cabinet rooms at the four corners with loggias between them.

The house sits on brick and stone piers. Its heavy timber frame is covered with weatherboards. External wooden trim includes a plain fascia board and drip mould at the sill extending around the perimeter except below the loggias, and a plain fascia board at the cornice of the porches. Cornerpost trim with a vertical bead appears both at the corners of the main block and the porches. The front loggia has turned posts and jig-sawn trim at the head of the opening; these members are faithful reproductions of the originals. The columns at the rear loggia are plain 4" by 4" posts and are probably not original. Simple, open-riser wooden steps, also not original but sympathetic in form to the existing building, provide access to the loggias.

All of the first floor sash are double hung with nine lights over six and once had exterior shutters for which some of the hardware remains. The attic windows consist of single, fixed, six-light sash. The front and rear doors at the loggias have sidelights; the front door has recessed panels, while the rear door is plain and does not appear to be original. All of the interior doors have recessed panels.

At the loggias, the floor consists of plain matched pine boards. On the interior, the floors, walls, and ceilings consist of plain, matched, pine boards. Both fireplaces have wooden mantles with simple pilasters at their jambs and ogee curves at the bases of their lintels.

The two principal rooms are distinguished by ornamental painting on their walls and ceilings. The wall painting includes a twisted rope motif at the picture-rail level and a wainscot. The ceiling painting consists of a large square with a circle inside it and a central painted rosette from which tendrils extend symmetrically. Tendrils also appear within the corners of the outside square. The ornament in the south room has been partially obscurred by smoke in a recent fire which did no further damage to the structure.

The integrity of the structure has been compromised only by the replacement of the steps, loggia columns and jig-saw work, the rear door, and the removal of the shutters and by the replacement of some of the stone piers with brick ones.

Outbuildings once existed on the site behind (to the east of) the house but have deteriorated to the state of rubble.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Perkins House is significant as an intact and relatively rare example of a mid-nineteenth-century middle-class farmhouse in Kemper County similar to but smaller than the typical I-houses found in the region. As such, it illustrates the diversity of form displayed by the region's domestic buildings of this period. Stylistic evidence suggests that it was constructed ca. 1870. It is also particularly significant for the well-preserved, late-nineteenth-century, ornamental painting which it contains. Oral tradition dates the painting to ca. 1890.

Identifiable 19th-Century house types in east-central Mississippi include Greek Revival mansion houses and I-houses as well as smaller structures with dog-trot and planter cottage forms. While the Perkins House's form is suggestive of an I-house in its proportions, it defies exact stylistic classification. Rather it represents a modest, local, architectural solution to the needs of an agrarian family in southwest Kemper County. This area never supported large-scale agriculture (as did the Black Prairie land in northeast Kemper County) but rather was typified by the cultivation of row crops and truck gardens.

The Perkins House joins several other houses in the vicinity which contain interior ornamental painting; stylistic comparison suggests that all of this painting was produced by the same artist. These houses are the Oliver House located about a mile southwest of Moscow, the nearby Shotts House,[1] and the Cole House, no longer standing but with much of its ornamental painting preserved in the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson.[2] While no documentary evidence remains, oral tradition attributes the paintings to an itinerant German artist named Mayer.[3] Neither the files of the Old Capitol Museum nor those of the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History contain evidence of a comparable concentration of ornamental wall paintings anywhere else in Mississippi.

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[1] Oliver House, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

[2] Documentary material on the Cole House can be found in Documentation File #80.12, Old Capitol Museum.

[3] Oliver House, NRHP nomination form

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brieger, James F. Hometown Mississippi. Published privately by the author, 1980.

Cawthon, Richard J. "The I-House and Expanded I-House in Mississippi, 1800-1875: Variations of a Traditional Form" (unpublished essay), Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Kniffen, Fred. "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 55, No. 4 (December 1965), pp. 549-77.

"Made by Hand: Mississippi Folk Art," exhibition catalog, Mississipi State Historical Museum, Old Capitol Restoration, 22 Jan-25 May, 1980.

Sledge, Brook. "A Postal History of Kemper County, 1834-1964." unpublished manuscript dated February, 1974.

"WPA Source Material for Mississippi History: Kemper County," WPA Writers Project, 1934.

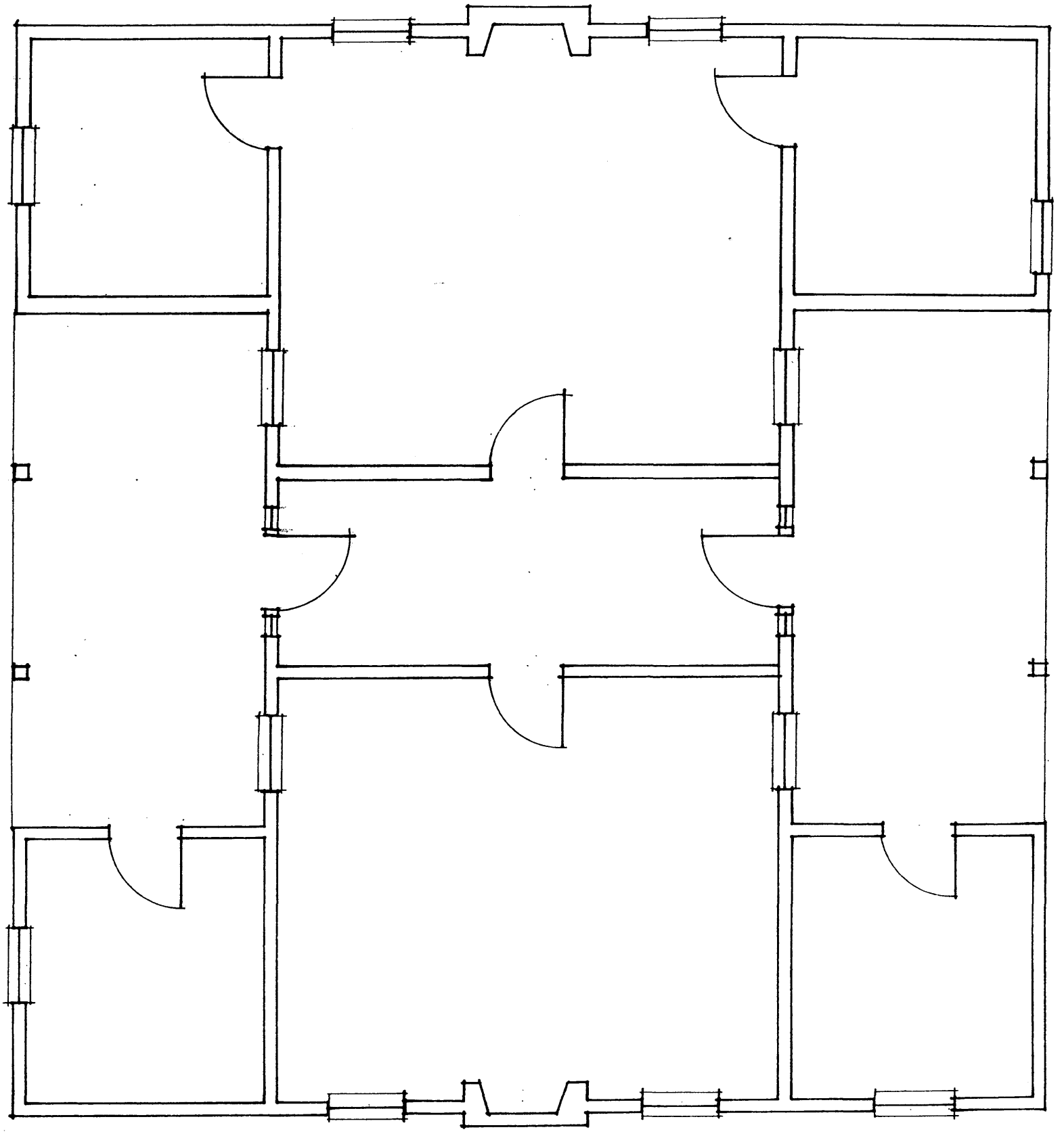
10. Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a 200' by 200' square centered on the front door of the house and aligned perpendicular and parallel to the house. The property lies in the NW 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 14 East.

10. Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the Perkins House and the sites of the former outbuildings.

PERKINS HOUSE
KEMPER COUNTY, MS



PERKINS HOUSE
DE KALB VICINITY, KEMPER COUNTY, MS.
MICHAEL FAZIO
OCTOBER, 1993
MS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES + HISTORY
NORTH AND WEST FACADES FROM THE NORTHWEST
PHOTO 1 OF 4

PERKINS HOUSE
DEKALB VICINITY, KEMPER COUNTY, MS
MICHAEL FAZIO
OCTOBER, 1993
MS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES + HISTORY
NORTH AND EAST FACADES FROM THE NORTHEAST
PHOTO 2 OF 4

PERKINS HOUSE
DEKALB VICINITY, KEMPER COUNTY, MS
MICHAEL FAZIO
OCTOBER, 1993
MS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES + HISTORY
ROOM SOUTH OF CENTRAL PASSAGE LOOKING SOUTHEAST
PHOTO 3 OF 4

PERKINS HOUSE
DEKALB VICINITY, KEMPER COUNTY, MS
MICHAEL FAZIO
OCTOBER, 1993
MS. DEPT OF ARCHIVES + HISTORY
CEILING OF ROOM SOUTH OF THE CENTRAL PASSAGE LOOKING SOUTHWEST
PHOTO 4 OF 4