NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brinkley, R. C. House

other names/site number Dunrobin

2. Location

street & number 605 Eastport Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Iuka ☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Tishomingo code 141 zip code 38852

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	0	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district			sites
☐ public-State	☐ site			structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure			objects
	☐ object			
		1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Iuka

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Elbert R. Hilliard — 3-13-2002
Signature of certifying official — Date

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☑ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. — Edson H. Beall — 4/26/2002

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

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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)

Greek Revival

Other: Rococo Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick piers, brick infill

walls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Brinkley House, sited on a knoll just north of the old Eastport Road, is a two story, squarely massed frame residence with a low hipped roof and extensive porches and porticoes. On both levels, the facade is three bay (W,D,W). Windows are tri-partite groups of lights, similar to those of other ante-bellum homes in Iuka. (See Photo # 1.)

Prominent on the facade are a massive, two story gallery supported on Ionic columns and an Rococo Revival entry with an ornately carved broken pediment above heavy, double Italianate entry doors. The entry surround has reeded Corinthian pilasters adjacent to entry doors and eight-light sidelights over paneled aprons. The molded frieze projects slightly over the entry doors. The broken pediment above the doors has a swag of carved roses hanging over the frieze and a large vase of fruit serving as the finial. (See Photo # 2.) The gallery floor, which continues as a walkway around the east elevation is now concrete. A central gable end on the roof rises above the flat roofed gallery. A fanlight with elongated petal shaped lights is centered under its projecting eaves.

Windows on the facade are made up of 9/9 double hung sash between 3/3 double hung side windows. Surrounds are narrow, earred, finished with edge boards, and have small blocks applied at the tops of the vertical window frame members. (See Photo #3.) (Similar surrounds are found on the Merrill-Nelson house.) Windows on other elevations are 9/9 double hung except at side entrances, where the tri-partite design reappears at the second level. The one story east entrance is under a gable roof with boxed returns, supported by Ionic columns. A hipped roof extension with an eastern bay has been located next to this entrance. (See Photo # 4.) The western one story entrance is a hipped roof porte-cochere on Ionic columns. (See Photo #5.) Friezes are wide and plain. Entry doors on both sides are double leafed, in surrounds with multiple overlights and multiple sidelights over paneled aprons. The western entry is larger.

The rear (north) elevation has a one story hipped roof extension at the western corner. (See Photo # 6.) This room was added as the kitchen c. 1911, when the house was altered to allow the installation of several architectural remnants of a much grander Brinkley house

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1857,1911	1857, 1911
Military	1862	

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The R.C. Brinkley House is significant both as a local architectural phenomonon and as the lone Mississippi building closely associated with the mid-19th century Southern railroad magnate.

Oral history says that Brinkley and his second wife, Elizabeth Moon, passed the site of the present house on an 1854 honeymoon trip by stagecoach. The house site, apparently with a structure on it, was adjacent to the stage road on the north side, on a rise which incorporated indian mounds -- the alleged home of Chief Iuka of the Chickasaw Tribe. The stage road, remnants of which are still visible to the east (See Photo #10), had a rest stop just west of the mounds, near the spring. The Brinkleys remembered the site and returned to purchase it and build a Greek Revival style summer home there.

The house is locally significant for its architecture because it is the sole remaining ante-bellum "big house" in Iuka. Its original massing and solid Greek Revival details are on the grandest scale of the remaining ante-bellum resources in town. Its early 20th century alteration with grand Rococo Revival details from Brinkley's Memphis mansion at 461 Poplar Street make it a unique piece of local architecture. (See copy of original house photo at #11.)

Its place in local history is secured not only by its association with Brinkley and his Memphis and Charleston Railway but by its use for the general's headquarters by U.S. Grant and W.S. Rosecrans, among others, during the Civil War activities in and near Iuka. Family accounts say Gen. Grant wrote to Brinkley following the war to thank him for the use of his home and assure him it was well cared for.

Brinkley was a key player in the development of Southern Railroads. Born in North Carolina in 1816, he moved with his family to a farm near Jackson, TN, in 1836. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1839. The firm he joined, Foster & Fogg, did legal work

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See main Bibliography and;

Crossett, William. "Dunrobin", an article on the Brinkley House incorporated into a State Wide Survey undertaken by the Division of Historic Sites & Archeology of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Tishomingo County, May 9, 1972. Project No. (?) 28-141-001-0001

Newspaper articles on R.C. Brinkley and the R.C. Brinkley home both published in the "Commercial Appeal." Paul R. Coppock wrote "A Man of Great Enterprise" under the heading Mis-South Memoirs - no date, no page number on clipping; the "Brinkley Summer Home" article was published Sunday, March 26, 1978 in Section G of the "Appeal," partly on page 7. Both articles in care of Mrs. Brinkley, present owner.

☐ See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	391195	3852125 0
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Part Block 59, Terry Survey (MB 2 Pg. 19)

Tax Assessor's Map 1704, Section 12, Subdivision 19, Parcel 003

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the Brinkley property from Eastport Road to 50 feet behind the house (north), and 100 feet to either side on east and west elevations. This is the land most closely associated with the historic identity of the house.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Embree
organization Preservation Consultant date 2/20/1990
street & number 20 Lake Valley Road telephone (601) 324-0410
city or town Starkville state MS zip code 39759

Owner: Mrs. W.J. Brinkley, Jr., 605 Eastport St., Iuka, MS 38852

built in Memphis, Tennessee. The kitchen sits on a raised brick basement used for storage. It has a covered window and a partially removed chimney on its northern elevation. Windows are 4/4 double hung. An interesting feature of the rear main elevation is the outline of a large round-arched opening centered on the main hall. This arched area was left open originally and served as an interior back porch which held iceboxes, etc. and was used in conjunction with a separate kitchen to the north to provide service to the dining room. Access to a set of service stairs to the second level was located off of this interior porch.

The floor plan for the house, originally a rather simple Greek Revival model used primarily for summer visits, is unusual for its cross halls on both floors. A 20'wide central hall leads from the formal entry doors past the parlor and a bedroom to a wide cross hall which served the rear two rooms (the dining room and another bedroom). Originally, a heavy double set of doors similar to those in the recessed entry/vestibule was located in the northern wall of the cross hall and gave access to the interior back porch/serving area. These rear doors have been removed and the wall has been extended. The front door in the recessed entry area is now a massive, heavily molded mahagony single leafed door with ornately frosted glass and the name "Brinkley" prominently displayed in the center. This door has two light sidelights over bevelled aprons and is set within a heavily molded frame. (See Photo # 7.) The space between the double front doors and this raised entry into the house proper has a tiled floor and is lit by the entry sidelights.

The home's interior is a mix of original Greek Revival, rather heavy but simple detail, Rococo Revival detail added in the 1911 alterations, and subsequent wallpaper and other decorative efforts. The entry hall has entry doors to a bedroom at left, the parlor at right. Doors and milled surrounds are mahogany. The formal stair lands in mid-hall and has two small landings and two turns leading to the second level. Stair posts are square, balusters are turned. Post caps and rails are mahogany, as are stair treads. The staircase sits in the hallway in both the central and cross halls, on a boxed base with diamond-shaped medallions "en pointe" within recessed square panels. The base, posts, and balusters are painted white. (See Photo #8.)

The front (south) bedroom has heavy wainscoting with robust but simple molding and a highly decorated Rococo Revival white marble mantlepiece moved from the Brinkley's Memphis home. (See Photo #9.) The parlor, to the right of the central hall, has a black marble

Rococo Revival mantle into which Mr. Brinkley's initials (RCB) are incorporated. The walls and ceiling of the parlor are panelled in walnut, with raised moldings to create a coffered effect. Centered in the ceiling is an ornament with RCB detailed in gold leaf. Both the paneling and the mantlepiece in this room were taken from the Memphis Brinkley house when it was dismantled.

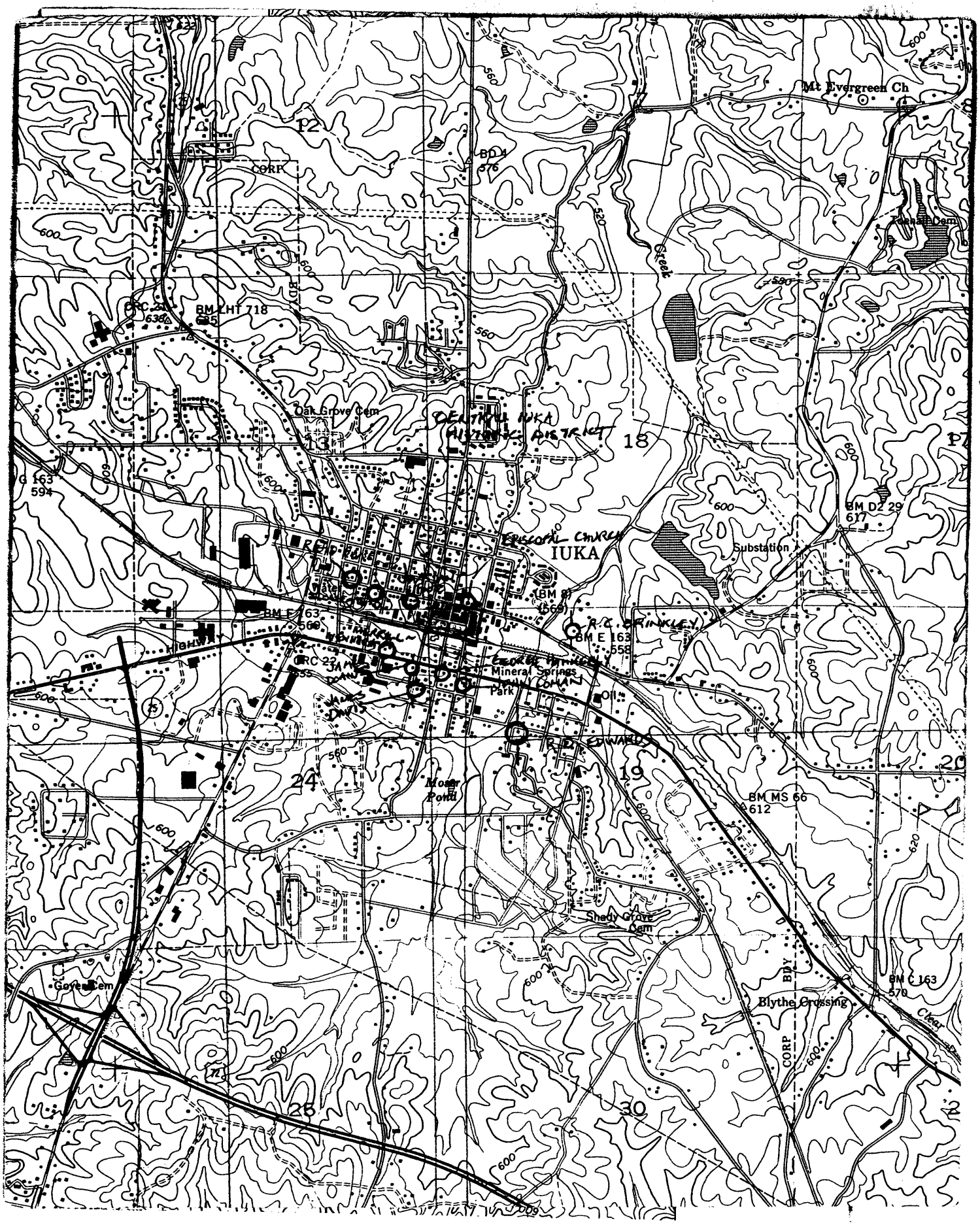
Mantles, moldings, and woodwork in general are simpler in the rear first floor rooms. The rear bedroom has a wooden mantle with Victorian detail which may have been made on site. The former back hall has been partitioned off to create a bathroom for the back bedroom, and, off the former back entrance, a small kitchen. This area is lower than the floors of the dining room and bedroom. The cross hall plan is repeated on the home's second level, where four more bedrooms are located. The two front bedrooms upstairs have imported marble mantles similar to those downstairs. Floors throughout the house are narrow tongue-in-groove hardwood installed during the early 20th century alteration. (See Photos 8&9.)

for the Planters Bank of Nashville, which had a branch office in Memphis. Brinkley went to work in Jackson, handling the bank's business in West Tennessee. He met Anne Overton, daughter of Memphis founder Judge John Overton, and they married in 1841. (Overton was the owner of the land originally platted as the city of Memphis.) The Brinkleys had two children at the time of Anne's death in 1845. They had moved to Memphis, where lawyering was increasingly put aside to take care of the management of Anne's real estate holdings. After she died, Brinkley gave up the law and interested himself in business and city development.

By 1846, he was advertising the establishment of a railway to connect Memphis and Charleston, and by 1849, he was selling stock in the company. He built several downtown Memphis buildings, became the boss at the Memphis branch of Planter's Bank, and invested heavily in the development of the city. It was he who went to England to solicit money for the purchase of rails for the M&C. He was successful in his negotiations with George Peabody, an American money broker in London who became a friend and later the origin of the name of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

The Memphis and Charleston was completed with the driving of a silver spike at the west edge of the town of Iuka in 1857. Local history says that Brinkley once had his own platform and train stop just south of his summer house, across the Eastport Road. As the M&C was being completed, Brinkley began work on the Memphis and Little Rock Railway, a line which was not completed until after the Civil War. Brinkley, Arkansas, on that line, was named after him.

R.C. Brinkley died at Dunrobin, named "after an ancestral Scots residence," in 1878. At his death, the town of Iuka which had grown up beside his railroad and near a group of mineral springs was becoming known as a health resort. The railroad, which had been the literal focus of original town development, became for the next several decades the means for travel to a resort area noted for its healthful waters, its good hotels and boarding houses, its schools, and its resort-related entertainments and activities. The house is the most sophisticated reminder of early Iuka.


Mt Evergreen Ch
CORP
BD 4
576
Creek
BM LHT 718
Oak Grove Cem
IUKA
18
G 163
594
BM D2 29
617
Substation
IUKA
BM E 163
558
Mineral Springs
Park
Moser Pond
24
19
BM MS 66
612
Shady Grove Cem
Grove Cem
BM C 163
570
Blythe Crossing
CORP
25
30

R. C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
FRONT ELEVATION - VIEW TO NORTH
PHOTO #1 OF 8

R.C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
FRONT ELEVATION - VIEW OF ENTRY
PHOTO # 2 OF 8

R. C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
FRONT ELEVATION - VIEW OF WOOD SURROUNDS
PHOTO # 3 OF 8

R. C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
EAST ELEVATION - VIEW TO NORTHWEST
PHOTO # 4 OF 8

R. C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
REAR ELEVATION - VIEW TO SOUTH
PHOTO # 5 OF 8

R.C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
WEST ELEVATION - VIEW TO EAST
PHOTO # 6 OF 8

R. C. PRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1989
MISS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
INTERIOR - VIEW OF MANTLE
PHOTO # 1 OF 8

R.C. BRINKLEY HOUSE
IUKA, TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
EMBREE
OCT., 1987
MISS DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
INTERIOR - VIEW OF STAIR
PHOTO # 8 OF 8