

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 12 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Purnell, James C., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 504 Summit Street N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Winona N/A ☐ vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Montgomery code 97 zip code 38967

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
	_____ sites
	_____ structures
	_____ objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber 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.

Kenneth H. P. Pool
Signature of certifying official
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer5/21/90
Date

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.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____Entered in the
National Register,Andrew Byers7/12/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

foundation Brick

Italianate

walls Weatherboard

roof Slate

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The James C. Purnell House, a two-story, frame I-house constructed in a combination of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, is situated on a prominent hill on the northwest corner of Summit and Fairground Streets in Winona. Facing south, the house is surrounded by 3.1 acres of land and can be reached by a concrete drive or by two walkways shaded by magnolia, oak, crepe myrtle, dogwood, bluebell, pine, and other indigenous trees and flowering shrubs. The three-by-one bay, eave-oriented I-house has a one-story, gabled, three-bay rear wing and a two-story, hipped addition extending from the west elevation (Photos 1, 3, & 4). The original kitchen is attached to the rear of the wing by a covered walkway. The house has a central hall, single-pile plan but is unusual in that the staircase is in a hall in the rear wing. Constructed of cypress, the house rests on brick piers, and the walls are finished with clapboard, flushboard and cornerboards. The roof of the I-house is pierced by two interior stuccoed chimneys with corbelled caps and is trimmed with a bracketed frieze and moulded cornice with incomplete returns. The roof of the rear wing is trimmed with a plain frieze and moulded cornice and is pierced by three interior stuccoed chimneys.

The eave-oriented, three-bay main (south) facade is dominated by a central, one-bay, pedimented tetrastyle portico (Photos 1 & 2). The main entrance is recessed and features paired Italianate four-panel doors framed by a five-light transom and three-light sidelights set above moulded panels, all surrounded by architrave trim. On each side of the entrance are paired floor-length, four-over-four, double-hung windows crowned by pedimented lintels and framed by louvered blinds. The upper level of the main elevation features a central, single-leaf, four-panel door framed by a transom and sidelights. This door opens onto a one-bay balcony that is supported by large scroll brackets with drop pendants and enclosed by an elaborate jigsawn balustrade. The window openings of this level are like those of the lower level. The portico features four colossal Greek Doric columns supporting a pediment with bracketed frieze, and a circular jigsawn ventilator is in the tympanum. The wall within the portico area is finished with horizontal flushboard. The original wooden porch deck which spanned the full width

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Purnell, James C., House, Winona, Montgomery County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 1

of the main elevation has been replaced with concrete. Historic photographs indicate that the porch was originally enclosed by a balustrade like that of the balcony.

On each level of the east elevation of the I-house are paired floor-length, four-over-four, double-hung windows crowned by pedimented lintels and framed by louvered shutters (Photo 3). A diamond-shaped, jigsawn ventilator is in the gable. The east elevation of the rear wing is finished with flushboard and features a single-leaf, Craftsman-style, three-panel glazed door framed by a transom and sidelights, and two floor-length, six-over-six, double-hung windows. A screened porch spans the length of the wing and features a wooden deck, cast iron posts and balustrade, and a shed roof.

The house interior is a central hall, single-pile plan, with a rear wing containing four rooms and a stair hall that spans the width of the wing. A one-story addition to the west elevation of the I-house was built circa 1920 to provide bathroom space, and around 1940 a second story was added to this addition to provide another bathroom. The I-house contains the parlor (Photos 5 & 6) and three bedrooms, while the wing houses the library, dining room, modern kitchen and a bathroom. Significant features of the interior include cypress hardwood floors, plastered walls, moulded baseboards and chair rails, window cornices, and original hardware. There are six mantelpieces of various designs in the house: two Greek Revival mantles with the openings framed by pilasters, a metal Italianate mantle with round-arched opening highlighted by a cartouche, a mantle with Tudor-arched opening, and two vernacular mantles. Some of the mantles have mirrored overmantles and tiled openings. Doors throughout the house are oak four-panel doors, nine feet in height, surrounded by architrave trim. The wallpaper in the parlor and dining room is believed to be original. The 38-foot long stair hall (Photo 8) contains an unusual open-string stairway which features two single-flight stairs extending from each end of the hall and meeting at a single landing. The steps are decorated with simple brackets, and the balustrade features turned balusters and newel posts and a molded handrail. At the landing are paired two-panel doors--crowned by a transom--that open onto six steps leading to the central hall of the second level. Beneath the stair landing is a round-arched opening, framed by pilasters, that connects the rear hall to the central hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Purnell, James C., House, Winona, Montgomery County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

The original kitchen (Photo 4), which is attached to the house by a covered walkway enclosed by lattice panels, is to the rear (north) of the wing. The kitchen is a one-by-one bay, gable-oriented, clapboard clad building resting on brick piers. The openings include a four-panel door and six-over-six, double-hung windows. The interior is finished with beaded board panelling and contains its original vernacular mantelpiece, as well as a Belknap Homemaker wood-burning cooking stove.

The guest annex (Photo 3), a contributing element constructed circa 1900 at the northeast corner of the house, is a three-by-one bay, eave-oriented, frame building resting on a brick foundation. The roof is pierced by an interior corbelled brick chimney and is trimmed with a plain frieze and moulded cornice with incomplete returns. Circular jigsaw ventilators are in the gables. The main (south) elevation features a central single-leaf entrance containing a five-panel door crowned by a single-light transom and two one-over-one, double-hung windows framed by louvered blinds. A two-bay porch with concrete deck, cast iron posts and balustrade, and a shed roof is at the western end of the facade. The east elevation features a semi-hexagonal bay with three one-over-one, double-hung windows framed by louvered blinds. The interior is finished with plastered walls, moulded baseboards and chair rails, and the original mantelpiece with mirrored overmantle.

A frame three-car garage, located to the northeast of the house, is a non-contributing building.

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)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1873-1921*

Significant Dates

1873

*This is the period the
house was associated with

Mr. Purnell, from its con-
struction in 1873 until his death in 1921.
Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Purnell, James C.

Architect/Builder

Hawkins, Major Frank

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

The James C. Purnell House derives its significance from its architectural character (Criterion C) and from its association with James C. Purnell (Criterion B), a prominent Winona businessman and philanthropist. The house is one of four I-houses remaining in Winona that were built in a combination of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The other three are the Dr. B. F. Ward House at 311 Summit Street, which has had its pedimented portico and two-tiered porch removed, and 312 N. Central Street and 709 Summit Street, both featuring two-tiered galleries with pierced columns, jigsawn corner brackets and latticed balustrades. The Purnell House was built in 1873 by Major Frank Hawkins, a builder from Vaiden, Mississippi, and the father-in-law of James C. Purnell.

The Purnell House retains a high degree of integrity and has such significant features as a two-story pedimented portico with four colossal Greek Doric columns, pedimented window lintels, incomplete cornice returns and bracketed frieze, a balcony enclosed by a jigsawn balustrade and supported by large scroll brackets, and the original kitchen connected to the house by a covered walkway. Significant interior features include original wallpaper in the parlor and dining room, an unusual open-string stairway composed of two single-flight stairs meeting at a single landing, cypress hardwood floors, moulded baseboards and chair rails, window cornices, and six mantelpieces, some with mirrored overmantles.

James C. Purnell was born in 1847 in Carroll (now Montgomery) County and in 1871 moved to Winona where he entered the mercantile business with Joe Kittrell, forming the firm Kittrell and Purnell. Upon Mr. Kittrell's death three years later, Mr. Purnell formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Frank Hawkins, Jr., under the name of Purnell and Hawkins. This successful general merchandising and furnishing business operated from 1874 until 1888, when it was burned out. The firm then formed a private banking company. In 1890, the Citizens Bank

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Purnell, James C., House, Winona, Montgomery County, Mississippi

Section number 8, 10 Page 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

was organized, with Mr. Purnell being named president. He was also the originator and first president of the Winona Warehouse Company. He served as town alderman for many years, as well as president of the Board of Trade and of the Winona Land and Improvement Company (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II [Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891], pp. 630-631).

Mr. Purnell's charitable contributions to the City of Winona included the donation of the Confederate monument, erected in 1909 on Quitman Avenue, and the presentation of Purnell Hall, located on Fairground Street, to the Winona Public Schools in 1916 for use as an elementary school. The Emmanuel Episcopal Church, located on the northeast corner of Summit and Fairground Streets, was erected in 1909 and presented as a gift to the congregation by James C. Purnell ("Will Consecrate Emmanuel Church," The Winona Times, May 27, 1910, p. 1). All three of these structures are extant. Mr. Purnell died in 1921.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

line of the Bus Co. Lot and the VanMeter Lot 254 feet to the southeast corner of the VanMeter Lot and a 12 foot easement off said VanMeter Lot; thence west 70 feet to a stake; thence south 55 feet to the northwest corner of the Ellis Lot; thence east 70 feet; thence south 150 feet to the southeast corner of the Ellis Lot; thence east along the north boundary of Summit Street 330 feet to the point of beginning.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

"Capt. James Carstaphen Purnell" (Obituary). The Winona (Miss.) Times, 15 April 1921, p. 15.

Montgomery County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk.

"Monument Unveiled." The Winona Times, 17 December 1909, p. 1.

Whitehead, Mrs. Francis, longtime associate of Purnell family with extensive knowledge of family history. Interviewed by Rickey Price at Winona, MS, May 1989.

"Will Consecrate Emmanuel Church." The Winona Times, 27 May 1910, p. 1.

"Winona Centennial: 1861-1961." A Souvenir Program, Winona Centennial Incorporated, 1961.

☐ 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 3.1 acres

UTM References

A 16 245905 3707990
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Part of Lots 222 and 223, Mercer West, Winona, described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of said Lot No. 222 at the corner of Summit and Fairground Streets as a point of beginning and running thence north along the west boundary of Fairground Street 363 feet to the southeast corner of the Tollison Lot; thence west 200 feet to the southwest corner of the Tollison Lot; thence north 94 feet to the northwest corner of the Tollison Lot; thence west 125 feet to the corner of the Bus Company Lot; thence south along the east

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains 3.1 acres, which is that portion of the acreage historically associated with this property that is owned by the present occupants.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda Rubach/Architectural Historian (from a draft by Rickey Price)

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History date April 24, 1990

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone 601/359-6940

city or town Jackson state Mississippi zip code 39205-0571

Owner: Rickey Price, 504 Summit Street, Winona, MS 38967 (601) 283-4143

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Purnell, James C., House, Winona, Montgomery County, Mississippi

Section number Photos Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Purnell, James C., House
- (2) Winona, Montgomery County, Mississippi
- (3) Rickey Price
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1--(4) March 1989
(6) Main facade (south elevation), view to northeast

Photo 2--(4) August 1989
(6) Portico, view to northeast

Photo 3--(4) March 1989
(6) South and east elevations, view to northwest
(note guest annex on right)

Photo 4--(4) August 1989
(6) South and west elevations, view to northeast
(note original kitchen to far left)

Photo 5--(4) August 1989
(6) Parlor, view to southeast (wallpaper and window cornice believed to be original)

Photo 6--(4) August 1989
(6) Parlor mantelpiece, view to west

Photo 7--(4) August 1989
(6) First-story central hall, view to south

Photo 8--(4) August 1989
(6) Rear stairhall, view to east



Purnell, James C., House

Photo 1 of 8

Mount Gormley & MS



Purnell, James C., House

Photo 2 of 8

Montgomery & MS



Purnell, James C., House
Photo 3 of 8
Montgomery Cms



Purnell, James C., House

Photo 4 of 8

front journey & MS



Purnell, James C., House
Photo 5 of 8

Montgomery & Ms



Purnell, James C., House
Photo 6 of 8

Montgomery Ems



Purnell, James C., House
Photo 7 of 8

Montgomery Co MS



Purnell, James C., House
Photo 8 of 8

Montgomery Conn