NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 5 1993

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 Niles, Judge Henry C., House

other names/site number Bailey, Dr. S.L., House; Routt, Dr. Larry, House

2. Location

street & number 305 North Huntington Street N/A not for publication

city or town Kosciusko N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Attala code 007 zip code 39090

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Park April 2, 1993
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[X] 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Entered in the National Register — Date of Action

Delores Byrd — 5/6/93

Niles, Judge Henry C., House
Name of Property

Attala 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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
roof Asphalt
other n/a

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

The Judge Henry C. Niles House is a grand two-and-one-half story, frame, Queen Anne style residence located on one of the old major thoroughfares of Kosciusko, a small central Mississippi town that is the seat of Attala County. The house sits near the street on a low foundation at the front (east) elevation. In contrast, the terraced lot drops off to the rear, allowing for a full basement on the back elevation.

The three-bay main (east) facade has a projecting gabled bay on the northern end. The central bay of the lower level of the main facade features double-leaf doors having decorative Eastlake molding and glazed panels, and the doors are crowned by a single-light transom. To each side of the main entrance are paired one-over-one, double-hung windows. Extending the full width of the main facade and wrapping around both side elevations is a one-story porch with fluted Ionic columns and balustrade with turned balusters. A wide belt course of imbricated octagonal shingles separates the first and second stories. The central single-leaf entrance of the second story of the main facade opens onto a one-bay porch with turned posts, arched spandrels with drop pendants, and a balustrade with turned balusters. At the southeast corner, a polygonal tower rises from the second story. A wide belt course of imbricated shingles also separates the two levels of this tower, and ornamental iron cresting crowns the polygonal roof of the tower, as well as the deck of the hip roof of the house. The projecting gable of the main facade has incomplete returns and is clad in imbricated shingles. This gable is further enhanced by vergeboard in a stylized leaf pattern and a spindlework sunburst ornament at the apex of the gable.

The north elevation is dominated by a two-tiered porch featuring turned posts, arched spandrels with drop pendants, turned balusters, and a pedimented gable clad in imbricated shingles. The one-story porch that originally extended across the rear elevation and along the kitchen ell was enclosed in the 1940s to create a new kitchen. The second story balcony of the rear elevation, like those on the east and north elevations, is intact. Windows throughout the house are one-over-one, double-hung sash.

The interior of the house has a large central stair hall. The two-run staircase has a handsome paneled newel post and turned balustrade. The double-leaf entrance at the rear of the hall originally opened onto the back porch and a service wing, including the kitchen area and a secondary stairway to the upper floor (removed in the

1940s). Fine millwork embellishes the interior throughout both stories. Both the lower and upper hallways have wainscoting. Doors are typically four-panel doors framed by molded trim with decorative corner blocks. Although the exterior chimney stacks have been removed, all but one room still display the original mantels with tile hearths and, in the major rooms, mirrored overmantels. The floor plan on the upper level parrots the ground floor.

The house evolved from a one-story cottage to an imposing two-and-one-half story house. On March 23, 1890, Judge Jason Niles, Judge Henry Niles' father, recorded in his diary, "Henry's house going up--he and his hands busy" (Judge Jason Niles diary, microfilm copy, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). Three days later he wrote, "Henry's house almost all up." It is not certain if these diary entries were recording the construction of the first or second stage of the house, and prior to 1925 the Sanborn Insurance Maps do not document the area north of Adams Street where this house is located. As originally built, the Niles House was a one-story, gable-front-and-wing form Queen Anne cottage, but soon after the initial construction the house was enlarged to a two-and-one-half story rural interpretation of the popular Queen Anne style with Eastlake detailing (see photocopies of historic photographs). In yet another stage of remodeling in c. 1905, the Eastlake porch on the first story of the main facade was enlarged to become a wraparound porch, and Free Classic detailing was employed.

Dr. Lamar Bailey purchased the house in 1936, and during the 1940s made a number of alterations, including extending the front entrance forward and changing the two-leaf opening to a single-leaf opening, replacing two windows on the main facade with a multi-paned picture window, enclosing a portion of the wraparound porch, removing the wall between the hall and parlor and creating a columnar screen using two of the porch's Ionic columns, and enclosing the back porches to create a new kitchen area. Recently the house changed ownership again and restoration and minor alterations are in progress. Most importantly, the front facade has been restored using most of the original details (double-leaf doors, windows and columns), which were stored under the house. Miraculously, the original hardware, including the doorbell, is still intact on the doors. The present owner has finished the attic space for a third story entertainment area. A compatible stairway continuing up from the second floor and two Palladian style windows in the west and north gables have been added

with modern detailing. Finally, to the rear of the south elevation four feet of the wraparound porch has been enclosed to enlarge the eating area adjoining the kitchen. This alteration does not compromise the integrity of the house. Although this house has experienced a century of modernization and minor alterations, it retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

A frame garage built c. 1940 and later enlarged to include a workshop is considered to be a noncontributing element. This building is located to the rear of the lot and does not impact the historic house.

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

Period of Significance

c. 1895

c. 1905

Significant Dates

c. 1895

c. 1905

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

_____

Niles, Judge Henry C., House
Name of Property

Attala County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	258380	3660710
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 E. Pauline Barrow, Architectural Historian (edited by Brenda R. Crook, MDAH)

organization N/A date November 3, 1992

street & number 1313 Pickett Avenue telephone 504/344-6410

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70808

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 Dr. Larry Routt

street & number P.O. Box 460 telephone 601/289-6898 (home) 601/289-4131 (office)

city or town Kosciusko state MS zip code 39090

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.

The Judge Henry Clay Niles House is a locally significant example of the Queen Anne style, being a rare surviving example of a style which once flourished in the small town of Kosciusko, the county seat of Attala County. The Niles House is particularly noteworthy due to the photographic documentation of its three stages of development (see photocopies of historic photographs). No information was found to document the precise dates of the remodelings, and prior to 1925 the Sanborn Insurance Maps do not illustrate this area of town, but it is clear the house underwent two phases of Queen Anne alterations, the first c. 1895 and the second c. 1905. Originally a one-story cottage, the house is significant for its c. 1895 remodeling, in which it was enlarged to a two-and-one-half story Queen Anne house with such fine details as a corner tower, roof cresting, two-tiered porches with Eastlake detailing, belt courses of imbricated shingles, a sunburst gable ornament and shingled gable. The c. 1905 remodeling of the lower story of the main facade porch is also considered to be significant because the fashionable Free Classical mode of detailing was employed. Although once the dominant style of Kosciusko architecture, today there are only five Queen Anne houses of two or more stories that have not undergone serious alterations. In addition to the Niles House, the other four are the Jackson-Niles House (1884), the Jackson-Browne House (c. 1882), the David L. Brown House (1900), and the Gayden House (c. 1900). The Jackson-Niles House, Jackson-Browne House, and David L. Brown House are listed in the National Register. The C.C. Kelly House (1888-89) is another fine Queen Anne house, but it unfortunately has had a massive addition which detracts from its historic character.

During the settlement of the interior hill country of Mississippi, Kosciusko began as a "watering hole" for travelers on the Natchez Trace, which ran north and south through town and across the county. From 1834, when the town was established, until the railroad came through in 1874, Kosciusko had no architectural identity. However, with the arrival of the Illinois Central Railroad, Kosciusko expanded as a business center. Along with increased prosperity came the first styled houses radiating out from the courthouse square. The arrival of the railroad also allowed easy access to mass-produced architectural details. The Queen Anne style of architecture was obviously very popular in Kosciusko, as evidenced by the many footprints of such houses found on the early Sanborn Insurance Maps.

The evolution of the Niles House from a one-story cottage to a grand two-and-one-half story Queen Anne house reflects the growing prominence and prosperity of its owner, Judge Henry C. Niles. Born in 1849, Judge Niles practiced law in Kosciusko and also served in the state legislature from 1878 to 1886. At the age of 40 he was appointed a federal judge, a position he held for 28 years. He was a federal judge when the state was allowed only one. Judge Niles died in 1918. His father, Judge Jason Niles, was one of Kosciusko's early settlers and prominent citizens, serving as circuit judge in Attala County and later as representative to the U.S. Congress. From 1831 until 1890 Jason Niles kept a diary, which has been an invaluable resource for accounts of this period.

Although this house has experienced a century of modernization and minor alterations, it retains a high degree of integrity from its c. 1895 and c. 1905 remodelings. The house is currently undergoing restoration.

(A contextual report entitled "Victorian Queen Anne Architecture in Mississippi" [Richard J. Cawthon, 1991, rev. 1992] discusses the significance of Queen Anne architecture in the state and establishes standards for assessing their eligibility for the National Register. This house meets the standards in that report.)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Judge Jason Niles Diary (microfilm copy).

Kosciusko-Attala History. Kosciusko-Attala Historical Society. 1976.

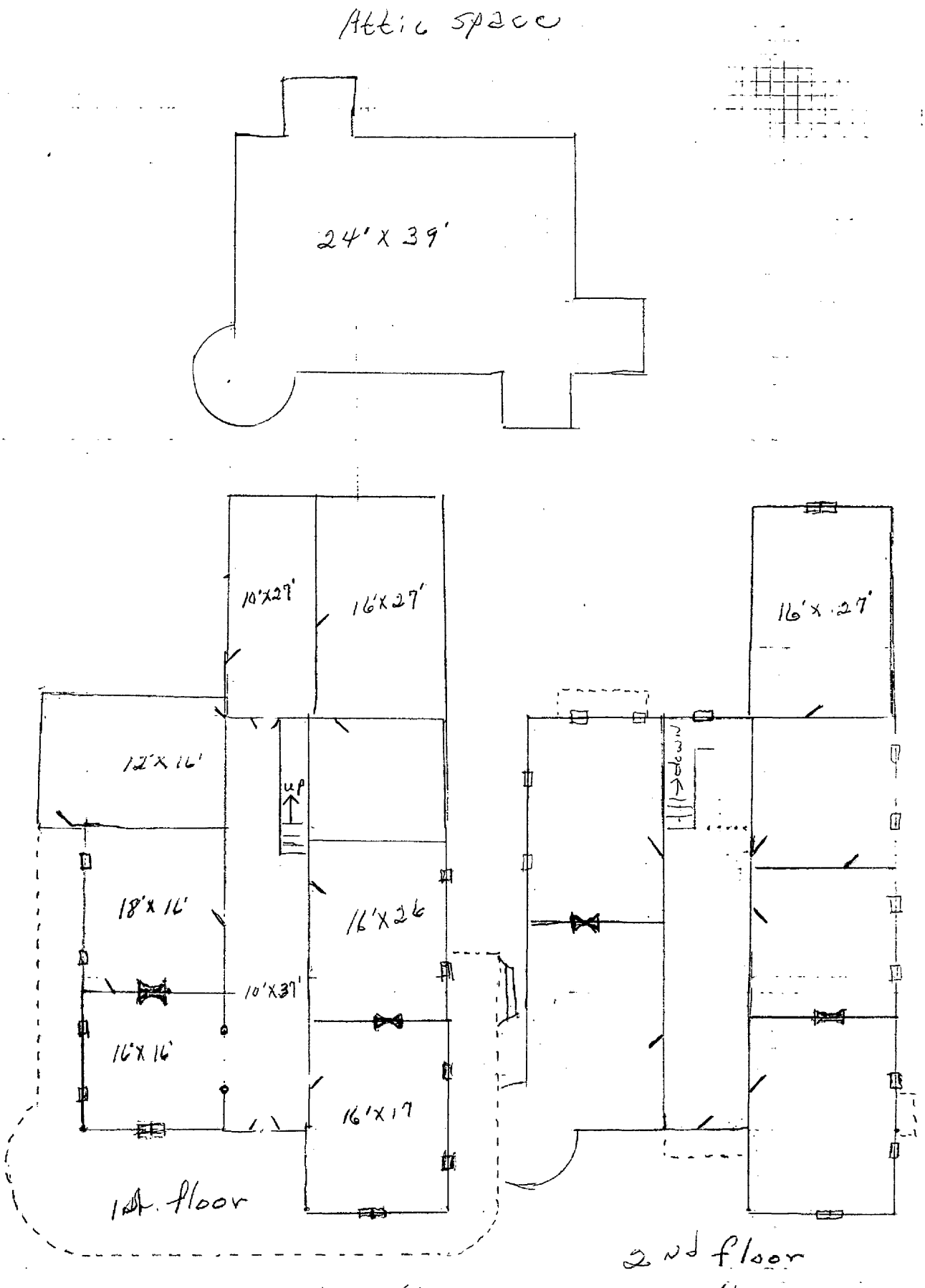
Sanborn Insurance Maps of Kosciusko. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson (microfilm).

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

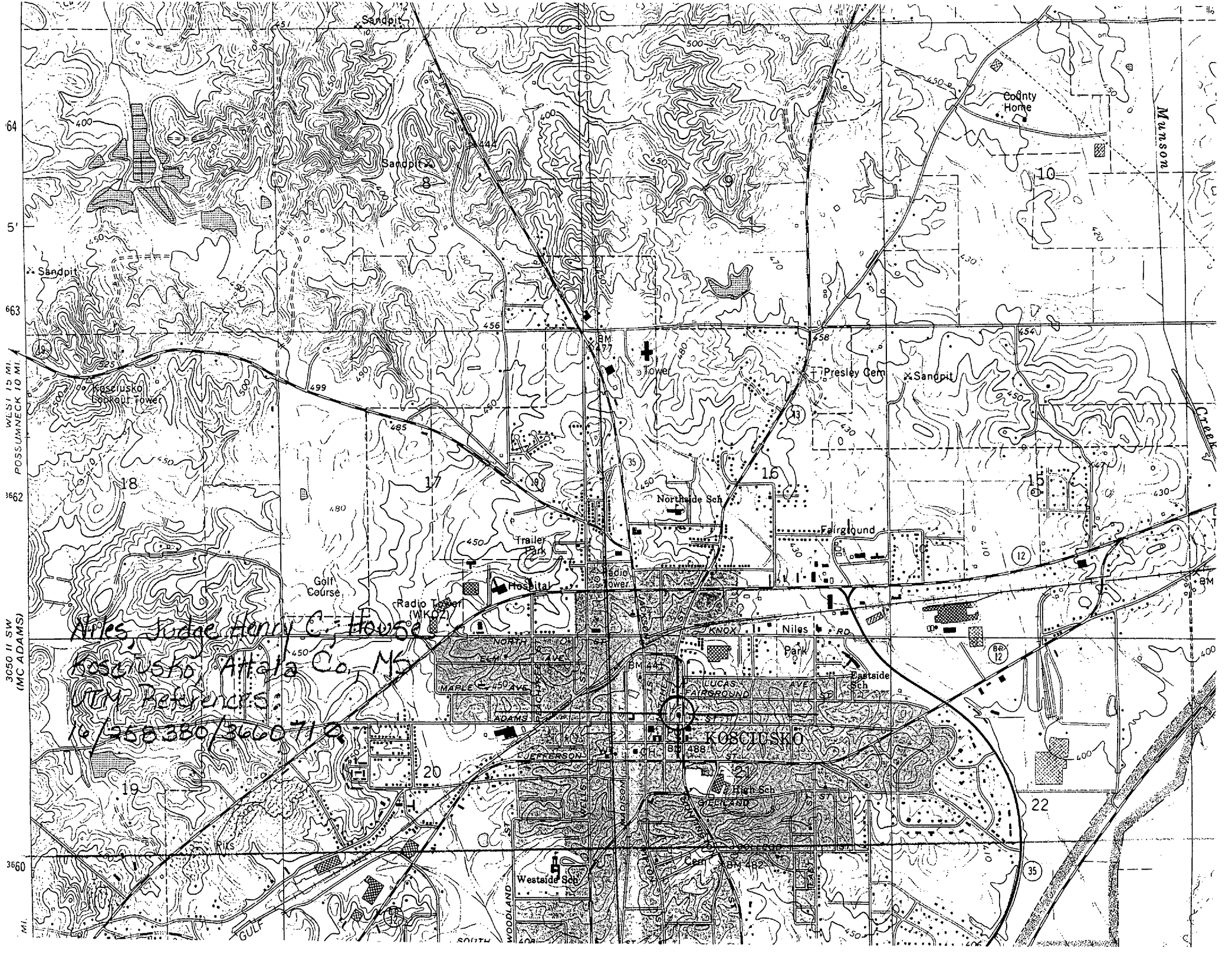
Part of Lot No. 117 of Mercer's Map and Plat of Kosciusko, Mississippi, Being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of Lot No. 117 run thence S 89° W 167.4 feet to a fence corner, thence run N 1°05' E 135 feet to a point at an iron stake, thence run N 89° E 167.4 feet to a point on the Westerly R.O.W. of North Huntington Street at an iron stake, thence run S 1°05' W 135 feet along the Westerly R.O.W. of North Huntington Street to the POINT OF BEGINNING. This lot is located in Lot No. 117 of Mercer's Map and Plat of Kosciusko, Mississippi, which is on file and of record in the Chancery Clerk's Office of Attala County, Mississippi.

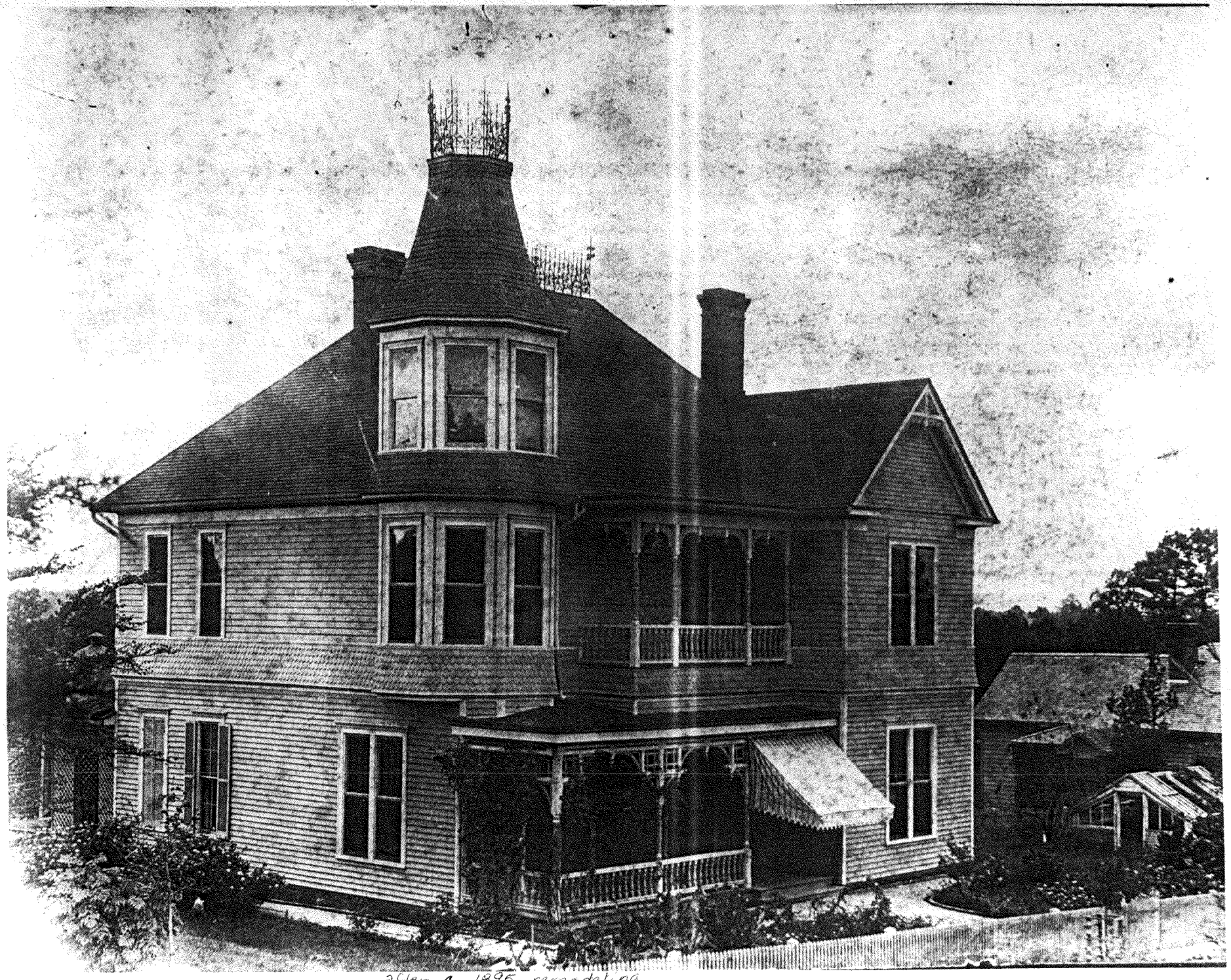
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary includes that portion of Lot No. 117 that has historically been associated with the property.

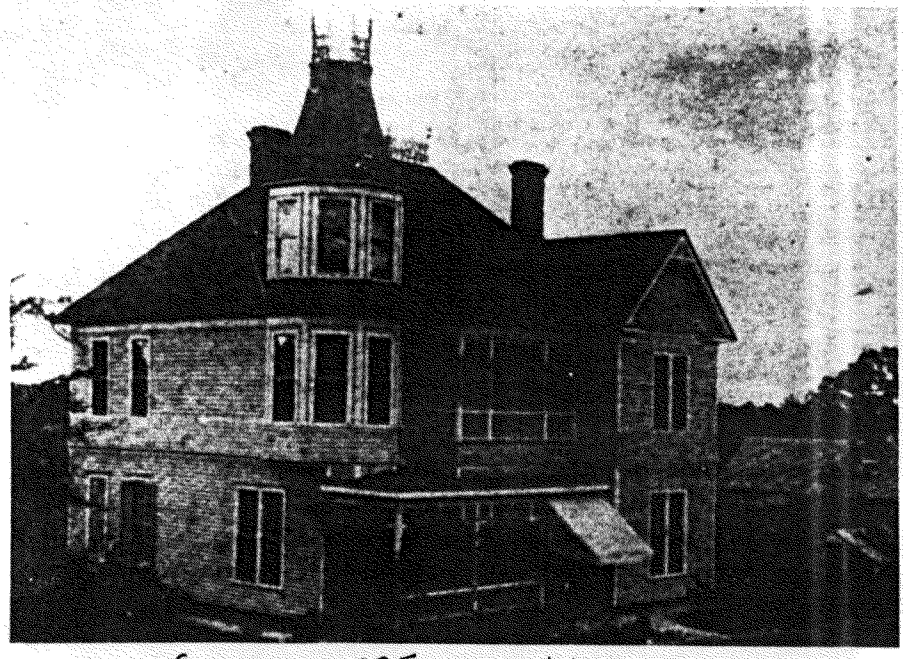


The Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala Co., MS
(NOT Drawn To Scale)

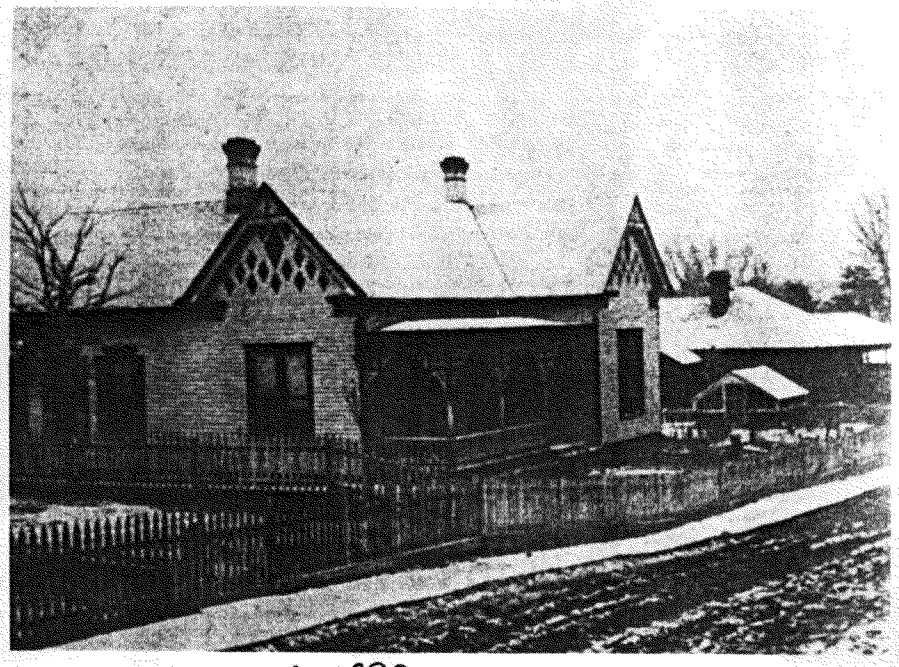

Sandpit
County Home
Munson
Creek
Sandpit
Sandpit
Kosciusko Lookout Tower
Tower
Presley Cem
Sandpit
Northside Sch
Fairground
Trailer Park
Golf Course
Hospital
Radio Tower
Radio Tower (WKOZ)
Niles Park
Eastside Sch
KOSCIUSKO
High Sch
Westside Sch
Cem
Pits
WEST 15 MI.
POSSUMNECK 10 MI.
3050 II SW (MC ADAMS)
Niles, Judge Henry C., House
Kosciusko, Attala Co., MS
UTM References:
16/258380/3660710



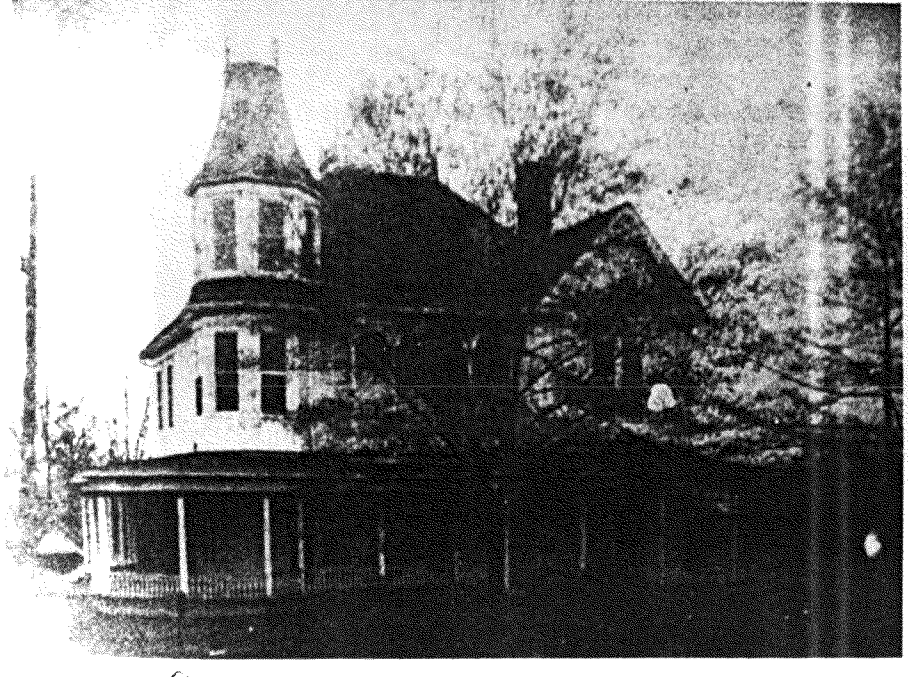
after c. 1895 remodeling



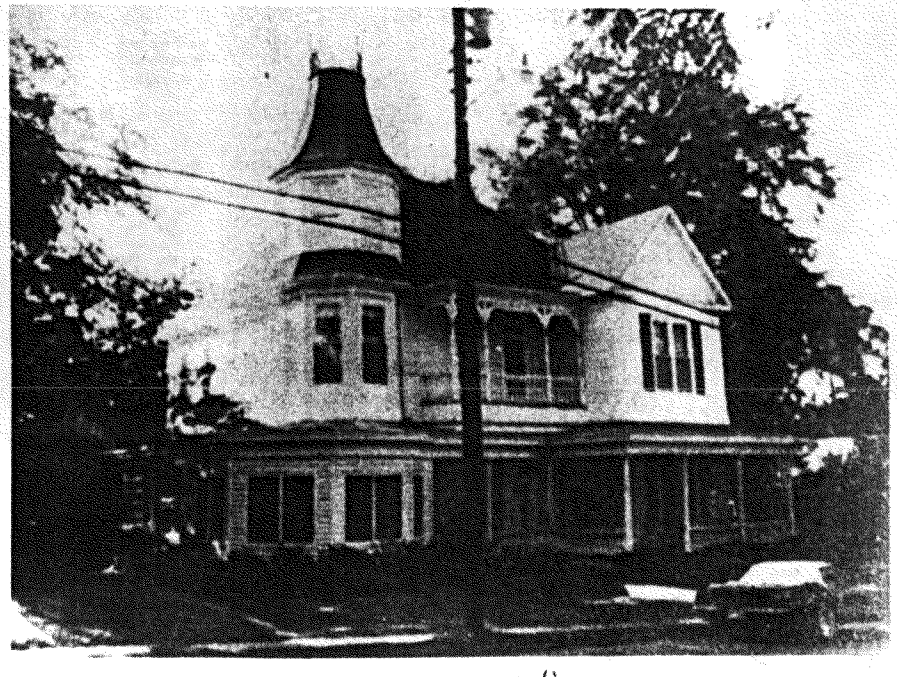
after c. 1895 remodeling



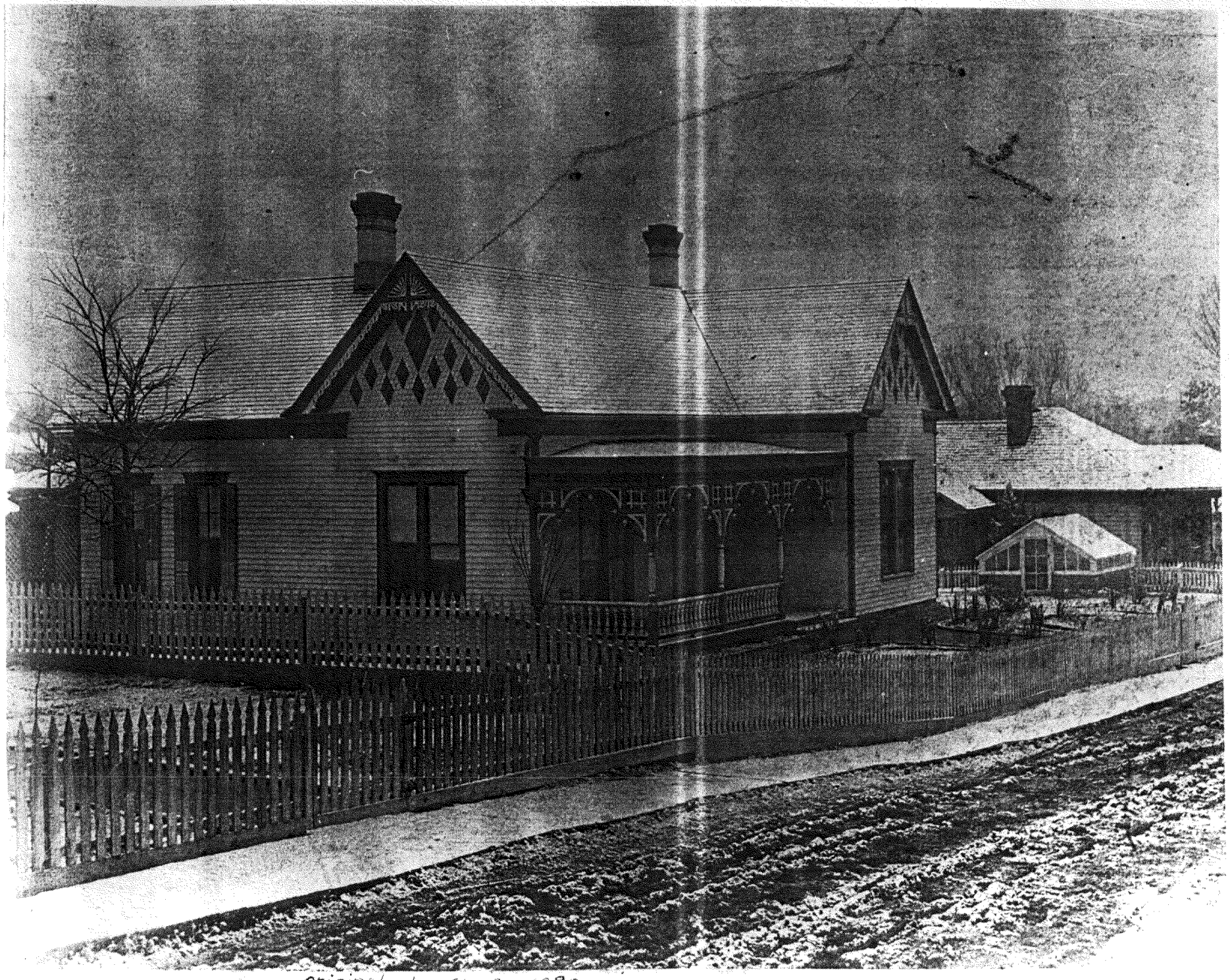
c. 1890



after c. 1905 remodeling



after c. 1940s remodeling



original house c. 1890

Judge Henry C. Niles
Kosciusko, Attala County, MS
Photographer: Dr. Larry Routt
August 1992
Mississippi: Department of Archives & History
Front façade & North elevation, view to West
Photo 1 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala County, MS
Photographer: Dr. Larry Knott
August 1992
Mississippi Department of Archives & History
Back elevation, view to East
Photo 2 of 9

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Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala County, MS
Photographer: E. Pauline Barrow
April 1992
Mississippi Department of Archives & History
Front entrance, view to West
Photo 3 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala County, MS
Photographer: E. Pauline Barrow
April 1992
Mississippi Department of Archives & History
Front gable detail, view to West
Photo 4 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala County, MS
Photographer: Dr. Larry Knott
August 1992
Mississippi Department of Archives & History
Interior detail
Photo 5 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala Co., MS
E. Pauline Barrow
January 1993
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
Detail, bedroom
Photo 6 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala Co., MS
E. Pauline Barrow
January 1993
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
Detail, stair hall
Photo 7 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala Co., MS
E. Pauline Barrow
January 1993
Mississippi Dept of Archives & History
View to Northeast
Photo 8 of 9

Judge Henry C. Niles House
Kosciusko, Attala Co., MS
E. Pauline Borrow
January 1993
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
View to Southeast
Photo 9 of 9