

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRRS use only

received APR 5 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic Judge Bates House

and/or common Judge Bates - Bates Tabb House

2. Location

street & number South Monroe Street N/A not for publication

city, town Houston N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Mississippi code 28 county Chickasaw code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	N/A being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☒ other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. East

street & number Route 1, Box 28

city, town Houston N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk

street & number Chickasaw County Courthouse

city, town Houston state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☐ good☒ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moveddate N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Two story, frame/clapboard, gable roof with exterior brick chimneys. Three-bay facade, giant order portico with coupled vernacular Doric columns, pair of bay windows, small cantilevered balcony. Pilasters and dentiled cornice. Single-pile plan with large rear ell. Rear double gallery with bracketed posts partially enclosed. Simple interior woodwork; pilastered and paneled mantels, symmetrical trim with corner blocks; elliptical arches with keystones. One-story semi-detached frame kitchen, two bays wide with deep overhang. Octagonal well house, frame covered with lattice and clapboard and a barn are the only original outbuildings located near the residence.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check 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	X architecture	— education	— military	— social/
— 1700–1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— humanitarian
X 1800–1899	— commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater
— 1900–	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— transportation
		— invention		— other (specify)

Specific dates 1845–1850 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Within the local context of Houston and Chickasaw County, the Judge Bates House is a significant example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture (criteria C). It is the sole Greek Revival structure in the small town of Houston (pop. 3,723), and the most prominent among the few remaining examples in this county located in north-east Mississippi. The design of the Judge Bates House is an attempt to interpret the Greek Revival style by a builder untutored in the subtleties of academic architecture. Nonetheless, all the major characteristics of the Greek Revival style are present: a giant order portico; pilasters; dentiled cornice; symmetrical facade composition; entrance frontispiece with paneled door and transom; and the ubiquitous cantilevered balcony with sawn balusters. The builder also included in his design a pair of pilastered bay windows which flank the portico. This feature, popular in Italianate architecture of the mid-nineteenth century, is possibly a unique feature for a Greek Revival house in Mississippi. While surrounded by twentieth-century finish, the interior woodwork survives largely intact. As expected, the pilastered and paneled chimney pieces, the symmetrical door and window trim with corner blocks, and the arches and keystones which frame the bay windows, are crafted in a vernacular Greek Revival style. The current owners have begun a restoration program which has caused considerable local interest and which promises to insure the structural and architectural integrity of the Judge Bates House.

The Judge Bates House was built purportedly between 1845 and 1850 for Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Keeney. In February, 1864, the Keeneys sold their land and house to William Stout Bates, whose descendants retained the property until the late 1970s.¹

Bates was born in Alabama in 1830 and moved with his family to Itawamba County, Mississippi, in 1842. He attended college in Tennessee, read law in Pontotoc, Mississippi, and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1858. In the same year, Bates married Susan Martin, daughter of Judge Thomas N. Martin of Pontotoc. Two years later Bates was elected Probate Judge of Pontotoc County. Bates and his wife moved to Houston, Mississippi, in 1862 and in February, 1864, bought the house from the Keeneys. Bates served in the Confederate Army, and following the war, entered into a law partnership with his father-in-law, Judge Martin. Bates died at age ninety-eight in 1928, having practiced law until "a few years before his death."² During his lifetime, Judge Bates was recognized as a "conspicuous leader in his profession . . . skillful in planning his cases . . . wise in counsel . . . cool in judgment and full of resources."³ After his death, fellow members of the Mississippi Bar eulogized him as a man whom "no friend or influence could get . . . to compromise truth or to yield from any position which he had assumed based on what he considered principle . . . in his death the state has lost one of its good citizens, the Bar a highly respected lawyer and the members of the Bar a friend and well wisher."⁴

Winfield Bates Tabb, grandson of William Bates, lived in the house during his entire lifetime. He was a professional pharmacist and druggist who served as mayor of Houston from 1925 until 1928. Winfield Bates Tabb died in 1973. Following the death of Mrs. Tabb in 1976, the Judge Bates house passed to her descendants who eventually sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. East of Houston in 1981.⁵

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi: Embracing an Authentic and Comprehensive Account of the Chief Events in the History of the State, and a Record of the Lives of Many of the Most Worthy and Illustrious Families and Individuals. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Van Vleet, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 16 315040 3752250
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Judge Bates House sits on a 2.57-acre irregular lot which is part of a 10-acre lot owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. East of Houston, Mississippi. The northern boundary begins at a point on Church Street which is 120 feet west of the intersection of Church and

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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N/A

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Joe R. East

organization N/A

date January, 1982

street & number Route 1, Box 28

telephone (601) 456-3902

city or town Houston

state Mississippi

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert J. Bailey

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 25, 1982

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/6/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

Judge Bates House

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

FOOTNOTES

¹Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Chickasaw County, Deed-book N, pp. 323-4.

²Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Verticle File, William S. Bates.

³Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi: Embracing an Authentic and Comprehensive Account of the Chief Events in the History of the State, and a Record of the Lives of Many of the Most Worthy and Illustrious Families and Individuals (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891), Vol. I, p. 361.

⁴Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Verticle File, William S. Bates.

⁵Mississippi Department of Archives and History, National Register File, Chickasaw County, Judge Bates House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Judge Bates House
Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

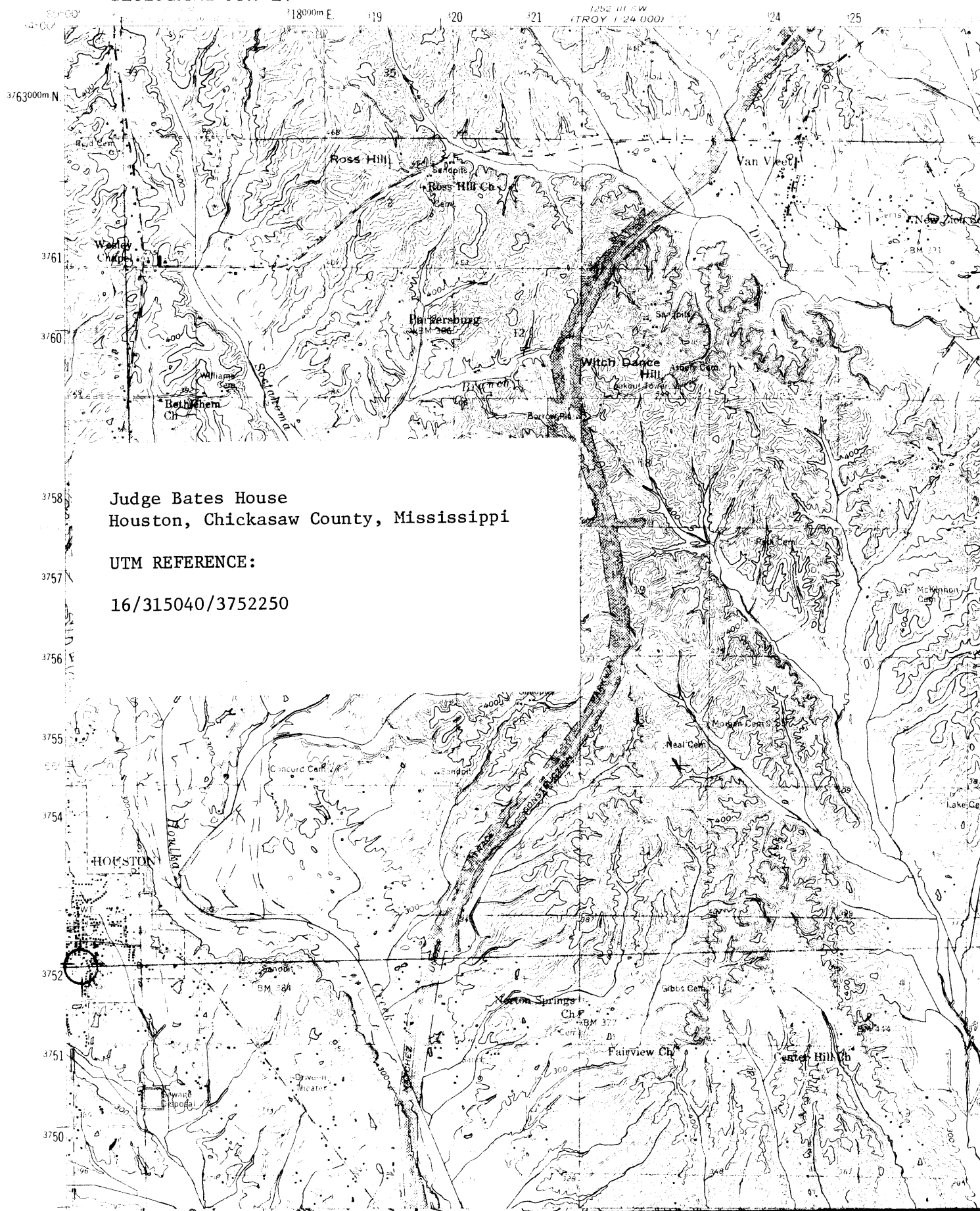
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Chickasaw County, Deedbook N,
Microfilm.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Verticle File, William S. Bates.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal boundary description and justification)

Monroe Streets. From that point begins the northern boundary which runs 120 feet to the east. The eastern boundary is 115.5, the next northern boundary is 146 feet, which runs to an eastern boundary of 370.1 feet. The southern boundary is 266 feet and the western boundary is 485.6 feet, which boundary line runs back to the point of beginning.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Judge Bates House

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Mrs. Joe East

March, 1981

North (entrance facade)

Photo 1 of 3



Judge Bates House

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Mrs. Joe East

March, 1981

West facade

Photo 2 of 3



Judge Bates House

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Mrs. Joe East

March, 1981

Interior - front left parlor

Photo 3 of 3