

**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

1. Name

historic P. M. Harding House

and/or common Harding-Johnston House

2. Location

street & number 1402 Chambers Street

NA not for publication

city, town Vicksburg

NA vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Warren

code 149

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 in process
 being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress
Accessible
 yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Johnston

street & number Morgan Hill Farms Box 62

city, town New Gloucester

vicinity of

state Maine 04260

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Warren County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Vicksburg

state Mississippi 39180

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

~~excellent~~ ~~poor~~
 good
 fair

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date NA

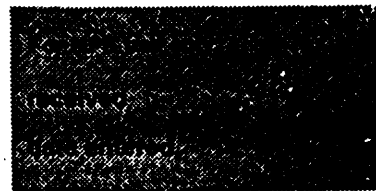
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harding-Johnston House is located in the old southern suburban area of Vicksburg on the southeastern corner of the intersection of Chambers and Frederick streets. Wrought-iron fencing along these two streets encloses seven acres of landscaped grounds, which are entered at at the northwest corner through wrought-iron pedestrian and car gates set within brick piers. The two-story Tudor style residence has a hipped and cross gabled roof with overhanging bracketed eaves, and the roof is pierced by four interior brick chimneys and an outside-end brick chimney on the eastern side elevation. A full entablature with modillioned cornice extends around the front and side elevations of the house as a belt course separating the brick first story from the stuccoed upper story with decorative half-timbering. This entablature is supported by the columns of the entrance porch and the columns of the flanking porches at the easterly and westerly ends of the house. The northerly facade of the house is dominated by a large gabled projection, which itself is fronted by a smaller gabled projection to one side. The smaller gabled projection is framed by Ionic pilasters and contains an oriel window that lights the two landings of the interior staircase. The main entrance porch, which is recessed beneath the large projecting gable, and the two porches at the easterly and westerly ends of the house feature turned wooden columns set in antis with square box columns. The columns and the heavy, turned baluster porch railing were originally painted and sand-coated to resemble stone. A two-story full-width porch supported by paneled box columns extends across the rear elevation, where a pedimented dormer lights the attic story. The first story of the rear porch and the western side porch extend to unite in a porte-cochere entered at the rear of the house. The western side porch is topped by a glazed sleeping porch. All windows of the house have keystones, but the window and doorway surrounds of the front and western side elevation are further elaborated with brick quoining. First-story window openings are filled with one-over-one double-hung sash, but the second-story windows have upper sash with four lights. More elaborate leaded and/or stained glass is found in the main entrance doorway and its flanking windows, the entrance doorway from the library to the easterly side porch, and the dining room windows.

The irregular plan of the house radiates from a room-size reception hall with paneled wainscoting and an unusual fireplace with a frontispiece framing a tiled chimney breast. The focal point of the chimney breast is an unusual carved figure of a child with outstretched arms. The staircase, which features a square paneled newel and turned balusters, is entered on the easterly wall of the reception room. Its flight is broken twice between the first and attic stories by two intermediate landings lighted by the oriel window of the facade. Sliding doors provide access from the reception room to the parlor, dining room, and library. West of the reception hall is the Colonial Revival parlor, which is the only room on the first story to have originally painted millwork. The library, which is located to the east, repeats in its built-in bookcases and over-mantel cabinet the pattern of the leaded glass in the doorway to the

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Harding-Johnston House

Continuation sheet Vicksburg, Warren Co., MS Item number

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eastern side porch. The dining room is similarly elaborated with built-in sideboard and china cabinet echoing the design of the mantel piece. Marble fire chamber surrounds are found in the parlor and the dining room.

Like the first story, the bedroom story is trimmed with architrave door and window surrounds, molded bases, picture molding, and doors with molded panels. The bedrooms have Colonial Revival wooden mantel pieces except the master bedroom which has an unusual tiled chimney breast with diminutive bracketed shelf flanked by a small open display cabinet and a matching cabinet with mirrored front.

The interior and exterior integrity of the Harding-Johnston House is exceptional and includes the survival of most of the original lighting devices. This integrity extends to the landscaped grounds which contain an array of outbuildings and a clay tennis court. The outbuildings include a gabled-roof frame caretaker's house with decorative half-timbering, a board-and-batten gabled-roof poultry house, two frame garages with pyramidal roofs, and a brick hothouse. All outbuildings except the hothouse are in good condition. One of Vicksburg's most sympathetic restorations is being undertaken by members of the Johnston family.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1904 **Builder/Architect** W. W. Knowles (attribution)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harding-Johnston House is one of Vicksburg's two best residential expressions of the Tudor Revival style. Local tradition attributes the design of the house to New York architect W. W. Knowles, who is documented as the architect for Vicksburg's 1904 W. C. Craig House, one of the finest Tudor Revival houses in Mississippi. Although not as grand in scale, the Harding-Johnston House's high quality of finish and stylistic similarities support the Knowles attribution. The Harding-Johnston House was constructed as the residence of P. M. Harding, who was president of the Delta Trust and Banking Company. The house was probably built the same year as the Craig House, since Harding is first listed as residing in the house in the 1905 Vicksburg City Directory. The house was vacant in the 1939 city directory but, in 1941, was the residence of the widow of Dr. Sidney W. Johnston, whose descendants still own the house. The Harding-Johnston House features many architectural details that are indicative of the Tudor Revival style like the cross gable roof, decorative half-timbering, brick first story with stuccoed upper story, quoining, and oriel window. The sand-coated paint applied to the columns and porch railings duplicates the appearance of the stone so popular for Tudor trim. The house is especially distinguished by the high quality of its interior trim and for its outstanding architectural integrity. The mantel piece and bookcases of the octagonal library echo in wood and glass the pattern of the leaded glass doorway opening on the side porch. Similarly, the dining room china cabinet, mantel piece, and built-in sideboard are matching installations. The house retains almost all original lighting fixtures and has a full complement of outbuildings and original landscape features, including wrought-iron fencing and a clay tennis court. The Harding-Johnston House is an exceptional reflection of Vicksburg's prosperity at the turn-of-the-century when it was the premier city of Mississippi.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register File. Warren County. Craig-Flowers House.

Vicksburg, Mississippi. City directories for 1904, 1905, 1939, 1940, 1941.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 7.2 acres

Quadrangle name Vicksburg West, Miss.--La.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	99	8	6	0	3	5	7	9	7	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

B

Zone	Easting			Northing									

C

Zone	Easting			Northing									

D

Zone	Easting			Northing									

E

Zone	Easting			Northing									

F

Zone	Easting			Northing									

G

Zone	Easting			Northing									

H

Zone	Easting			Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification See xerox of city tax map with nominated property outlined in green.

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

state	code	county	code
NA			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller

organization Miller Preservation Services

date March 20, 1986

street & number 506 High Street

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 16, 1986



