

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

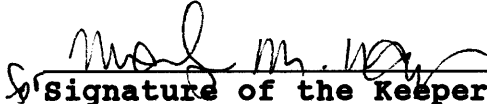
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001803      Date Listed: 12/20/91

Nelson, John C., House      Jackson      MISSISSIPPI  
Property Name      County      State

Historic Resources of Pascagoula, MS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

7/10/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination was amended to delete the name of John C. Nelson as significant person, since significance is not being claimed under Criterion B.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Mississippi SHPO (1/9/92).

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1803

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 Nelson, John C. House
other names/site number Davis, Jennie Ruth House

2. Location

street & number 2434 Pascagoula Street
city, town Pascagoula
state Mississippi code MS county Jackson code 59 zip code 39567

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Pascagoula, MS

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. Signature of certifying official: Kenneth H. P. Deak, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Date: Oct. 24, 1991.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official. Date.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. 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)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated slightly above street level and close to the street, the John C. Nelson house faces west onto Pascagoula Street and north onto E. Polk Street.

A one and a half story frame house raised on brick piers, the building is a gable-ended structure on the south end, butted on the north by an L-shaped structure with a projecting gable to the front.

The site is above sidewalk level two feet or so at the northwest corner, the soil being retained by a low concrete wall. Access is up concrete steps to the front door. There is a large tree at the northwest corner of the lot, and another near the northeast corner of the house. The back yard is screened by a new six-foot natural wood fence, whose vertical pickets are cut in a spearhead shape, and outside of which pampas grass is planted. There are other trees and shrubs elsewhere. Foundation planting is seen occasionally.

The south wall of the northerly front gable runs east fifteen feet or so to where a clipped bay projects north, this bay having, in turn, a gable end above it. The roof of the bay joins the roof of the north mass, both having a common plane on the east side. To the east, behind the bay and in line with its north side, is an addition with low-pitched roof which runs up under the house eaves. this addition repeats weatherboards and skirt, but has a fascia set on the east side only with the brackets under the projecting eaves. The addition runs nine feet or so east, then turns and runs south, butting the original house about four feet shy of the back northeast corner; an original two-over-two double-hung sash is in this original wall space. At this same northeast corner, just south of the corner, is another addition, this with a shed roof and brackets on the east side. Running the length of the east wall, it is open to the main house wall its seven-foot or so depth, with little brackets set at intersection of cornerboards and eave fascia.

The walls of the house are weatherboarded, with corner boards and a water table and large fascia at floor level; brick piers are below. Trim on openings is simple flat boards. The south gable has simple boxed verge with deep fascia, projecting a foot or so. The same detail is repeated at the front eave of the roof, where it turns the corner to run about three feet on the south end, returning on itself and receiving the verge; this repeats at the southeast corner. It runs across the front of the entire house, coming out and around the gable at the north end. On the north end, the eaves and fascia of the north front gable continue, and run along over the clipped dormer, the fascia deepening between the ninety-degree corners of the gable and the mass of the north wall of the bay. The eave fascia returns to the house wall and runs around to the main south end gable.

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In the center of the south roof mass, a wide dormer with a two-over-two double-hung sash, flanked by weatherboards and with weatherboarded sides, sits on the asphalt shingle roof. The dormer is gabled, with a low pitch and with a slightly projecting boxed verge resting on the same boxing which runs at the eaves and across the gable end.

At the north end of the front, a high gable end with typical boxed verge has a four-over-four sash on the weatherboarded front plane. Details of the gable over the clipped bay on the north side are similar.

An Eastlake porch, with a low hipped roof set right under the house eaves, runs across the front, starting at the southwest corner and projecting out at the projecting north gable and mass. It bypasses the northwest corner of the building by about four feet, and is enclosed here on the south side by an infill at the shed roof. The bays of the porch are two sizes--a large and a small width. The south end bay is rather small (about seven feet); turning the corner going north there is a large, then a small bay--this at the entry area--then turning west, a large bay; then turning north, three small bays; turning forty-five degrees parallel to the house wall, one bay; then a forty-five for another small bay; then ninety degrees for a small bay to return to the house.

The square section top of the turned posts is set with small jigsaw work brackets; at the bottom square section, the handrail has been removed. The soffit beam and projecting eave boxing are simple and consistent with the eave boxing.

On the south end, a pair of small two-over-two double-hung sash, separated by a mullion, center on the gable peak; below are two large similar sash, each with one louvered blind.

On the front of the south mass are two doors with a window in between, the window slightly off-center to the south. The door at the southwest end is a wood panel door with single-light transom; the window is typical two-over-two sash. The door toward the north, the front door, has a single light over two horizontal panels, and a single-light transom. Turning the corner of the projecting gable end north of the front door, there is another typical double-hung. This typical sash is also on the west end of the gable mass, but the wall itself is clipped at the northwest corner, this clipping being repeated in the line of the porch construction. On the south end, there is a typical window in the gable end of the clipped bay, in the two exposed sides of the bay, and in the south wall of the house at front and back.

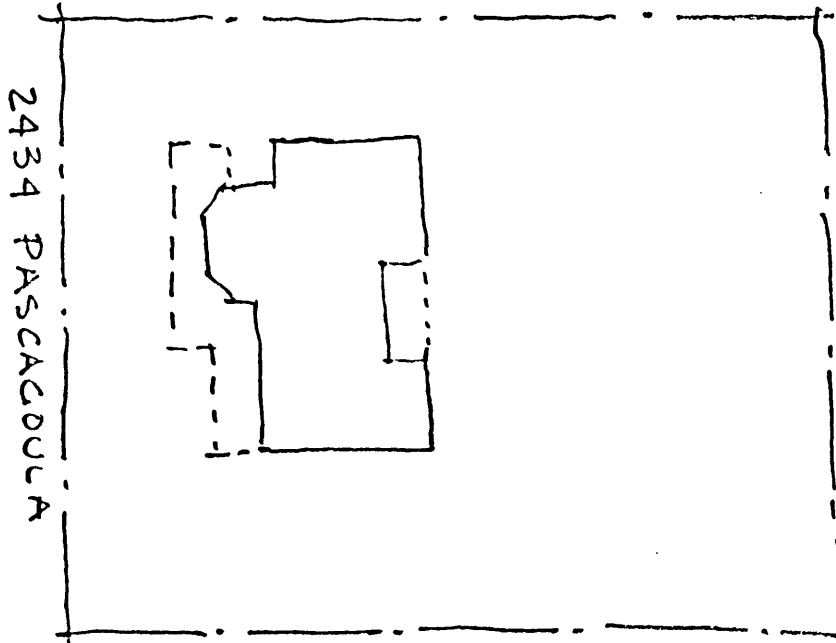
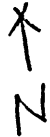
This center hall cottage reflects the massing change brought on by the late nineteenth century. The wide center hall has a paneled wainscot, wood cornice with pendants in the corners, narrow pine floors, elaborate base, and L-shaped stairs at the rear of the hall. Doors have five panels, no transoms, and corner blocks projecting above the head casing. On the north side of the hall, the front room projects beyond the main mass of the house. It is joined ensuite by pocket doors to the adjacent room.

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**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)  N/A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1899

Significant Dates

1899

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

John C. Nelson

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

The Nelson house is architecturally significant within Pascagoula's residential context. The well-maintained, intact Queen Anne cottage was built in 1899 by a locally prominent mercantile family. The house reflects the impact of business on the community in providing both the need for such middle-class housing and the means to provide it.

The center-hall cottage displays the picturesque quality associated with the Queen Anne style, as well as the regional influence of a wraparound gallery. A close study of the roof line and building mass indicates that this house may have begun with the Creole cottage form and been enlarged to the north with a cross gable. Its location on the streetcar line between the communities of Scranton and East Pascagoula is evidence of the rapid growth of these towns towards each other as a result of the prosperous economy, eventually leading to the merger of the two in 1904. The wood frame house is also a tangible link to the lumber industry of the area, which daily produced thousands of board feet (see cover nomination).

John C. Nelson acquired this site in 1899 and built the present house. The Nelson family operated one of Scranton's largest businesses. Founded in 1878 by John Nelson's father, Christian Nelson, as a shoe shop, it rapidly grew to include "dry goods, notions, ladies and gents furnishings, fancy goods, hats, caps, umbrellas and a fine assortment of ladies, gents and childrens shoes," as well as furniture. Located on Pascagoula Street, the business carried over \$10,000 worth of stock in 1896. John Nelson served on Pascagoula's city council.

The Nelson family retained the house until 1903, when it was sold to Mrs. Catherine F. Peterson. In 1918, Mary E. Nelson acquired the house, and it remained in the Nelson family until 1964 when Jennie Ruth Davis purchased it.

In summary, the cottage is architecturally significant for its association with noted businessman John C. Nelson; for its association with the socio-economic impact that commerce had on the area; and as an example of an intact middle-class house of the late 1890s.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

For Bibliography See Context Statement.

N/A 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 Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	6
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3	5	0	5	7	5
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3	3	5	9	5	7	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

BK 6, W48' Lot 15 and Lot 16 SQ. 2, V. Delmas Heirs TR  
DB 250-483 M863.29 SEC 5-8-6

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

N/A See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robert J. Cangelosi, Jr., Architect  
 organization Koch and Wilson Architects, A Prof. Corp. date 3 June 1991  
 street & number 1100 Jackson Avenue telephone 504/581-7023  
 city or town New Orleans state LA zip code 70130