

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 6 1986

date entered NOV 6 1986

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

1. Name

historic Gillespie-Jackson House

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number SE corner, MS Hwy 12 and MS Hwy 25 N/A not for publication

city, town Starkville N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Oktibbeha code 105

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Frank Jackson

street & number P. O. Box 185

city, town Starkville N/A vicinity of state Mississippi 39759

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Starkville state Mississippi 39759

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>      N/A      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(minimally)		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

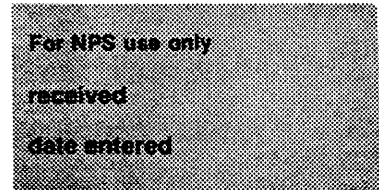
The Gillespie-Jackson House is a two-story vernacular Greek Revival house built in 1850. It stands a hill overlooking the intersection of Mississippi highways 12 and 25 on the southern outskirts of Starkville. Extensive commercial "strip" development has encroached in recent years, but the house is isolated to some degree by its hilltop site and the trees and shrubs which partially screen it from view. It is located southeast of the intersection, facing west toward highway 25, and is reached by way of a curving driveway which leads to a garage on the south side of the house.

The house is a wood-frame, clapboarded "four-over-four" or "Georgian double-pile" with a side-gabled roof and interior chimneys. A monumental portico projects from the center of the five-bay west (front) facade. In the upper part of the portico is a cantilevered (and otherwise unsupported) balcony which reaches to within eight inches of the piers but does not touch them. Opening onto the portico and the balcony are two identical doorways, each consisting of a double-leaf paneled door flanked by fire-pane sidelights and surmounted by an eight-pane rectangular transom, within a simple molded architrave. A third matching doorway opens onto the off-center, two-bay back porch on the east side. Two smaller, single leaf doors with transoms open to a one-story screened porch on the south. The entablature of the portico continues around the body of the house, "carried" by pilaster strips at the corners. The gables on the north and south ends are pedimented. All the windows are nine-over-nine double-hung. Those on the front and end walls have louvered shutters.

The plan of the first floor consists of four equal-sized rooms, two on each side, separated by a central hall with an exterior door at each end and a straight-run stair along one side. The upper floor has an identical plan, except that the east end of the upstairs hall terminated in a window instead of a door. A small bathroom has been added in that location. Every room originally had a fireplace, although the flues have now been closed and gas heaters installed. The fireplaces are positioned back-to-back on the transverse interior wall. All have simple vernacular Greek Revival mantelpieces. The two rooms at the south end of the first floor are the only ones which interconnect. Both are bedrooms, the rear having had a bathroom added in one corner. Both rooms have built-in closets which appear to be original. The parlor, the northwest room on the first floor, is the most ornate room in the house. Although the mantle and woodwork are rather simple, the ceiling is decorated with a foliated medallion and a richly molded border over a finely detailed cornice. The other rooms are quite plain, having neither cornices nor medallions. The

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Gillespie-Jackson Hse., Starkville,  
Continuation sheet Oktibbeha Co., Miss.

Item number

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doors and windows in all but the parlor exhibit a vernacular interpretation of a Greek Revival eared architrave. The northeast room on the first floor has been divided by a low partition to create a kitchen area at one end. The four upstairs rooms are used now for guest bedrooms and storage areas.

The addition of the kitchen and bathrooms and the conversion to gas heaters have been the only appreciable changes to this otherwise very well preserved house.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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** 1850 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gillespie-Jackson House is locally significant to Starkville and Oktibbeha County as one of the largest and most architecturally ambitious of the few surviving antebellum houses in the county.

In architectural character it is a traditional "Georgian double-pile" or "four-over-four" with vernacular Greek Revival stylistic treatment. Four-over-four houses are the largest of the commonly recurring traditional house forms built in Mississippi during the years before the Civil War, and as such, are relatively rare. (I-houses and two-room and four-room center-passage cottages were much more common, as were single-pen and dog-trot log houses.) Although traditional in form, these houses were often given pretentious porticos and decorative detailing sometimes rivalling that of formally-designed houses of the period, and were thus the grandest houses of their era in Mississippi towns. The Gillespie-Jackson House is very representative of this architectural practice. Although its vernacular form and character are quite evident, it was nonetheless one of the largest and most architecturally ambitious houses in Oktibbeha County at the time of its construction.

The house was built in 1850 for Dr. William Gage Gillespie, a physician who had come to Oktibbeha county early in the 1830s. By the 1850s Gillespie owned several thousand acres of land and perhaps as many as 200 slaves, and was considered to be the wealthiest man in the county (Thomas Battle Carroll, Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County [Gulfport, Miss.: The Dixie Press, 1931] p. 93).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Carroll, Thomas Battle. Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County, Gulfport, MS: The Dixie Press, 1931.
- Longest, Doy Payne. Historic Homes and Buildings in Oktibbeha County. [Starkville, MS]: Mississippi State University, 1977.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1.4 acres

Quadrangle name Starkville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	3	0	7	1	0	3	7	0	2	8	7	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

Lot 38, block 39-B, Section 3, T 18N, R 14E, City of Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. (see enclosed map)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives and History date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state Mississippi 39205

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P'Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 30, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

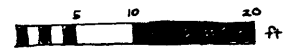
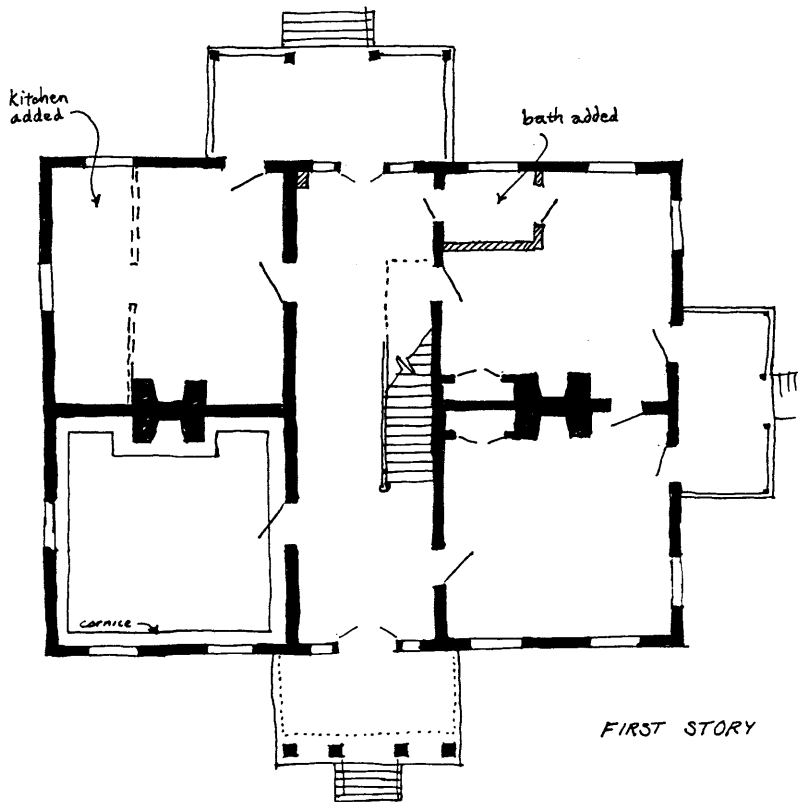
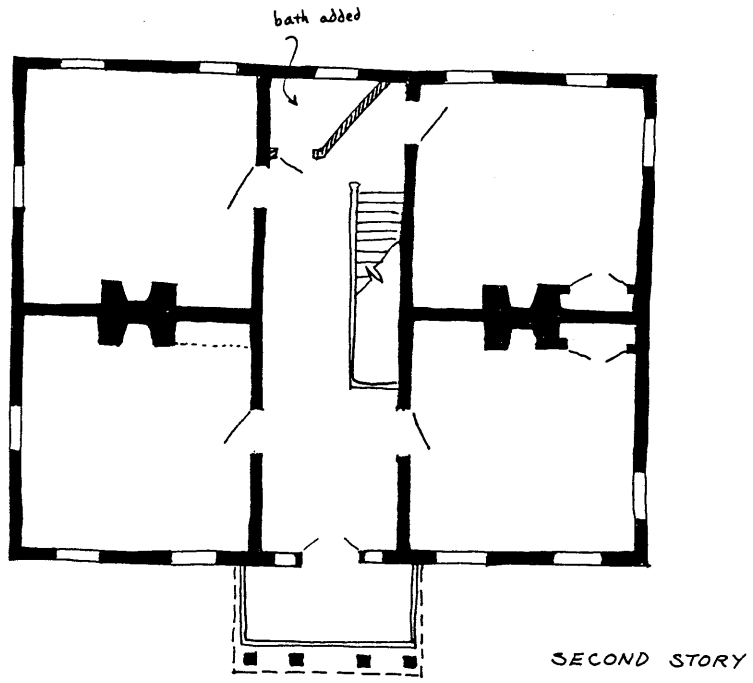
11-6-86  
National Register

date 11-6-86

for Alloues Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



**GILLESPIE - JACKSON HOUSE**  
 STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

*Approximate plan*  
 R.J. Cawthon, del. 1986

