CITY, TOWN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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LOCATION	J				
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STATE	LICVILLE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Miss	sissippi	28	Oktibbeha	107	
CLASSIFIC	CATION				
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP		STATUS	PRES	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
X.BUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	XUNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
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NAME Mr. and STREET & NUMBER P. 0. CITY, TOWN Starky	nd Mrs. Michael D. Kra Box 1306	VICINITY OF	STATE Mississippi 39759		
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CONDITION

__UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

XALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD <u>X</u>fair __RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a slightly elevated town lot above North Montgomery Street in what was once a fashionable turn-of-the-century neighborhood, the Owens House is a large, two-story, frame building constructed in the 1880's. The structure is somewhat pretentious in its setting and design and bears a strong stylistic relationship to the Queen Anne period of architecture which was becoming popular in north Mississippi about that time, although the severity of the composition and limitation of ornamentation to windows, porches, and roof line seems to indicate a lingering influence of Italianate design in its architecture.

Basically rectangular in plan, the building's design employs intersecting gable roofs and a projecting-two-story, front pavilion to create an asymmetrical appearance. The severe angular character of the building's three-bay facade (east elevation) is softened by a one-story porch (supported by delicate turned posts with Eastlake influenced brackets) which is tucked into the L-shape space formed by the pavilion's projection. Ornamental features of the house include the delicate jigsaw scroll work in the triangular vertex of the gables; the round, castiron attic vents also located in the gables; the molded, cornice window heads; and the corbeled chimney cap. The tall, narrow windows with their two-over-two glazing configuration are correspondingly reminiscent of Italianate design. Only the window which lights the interior stair landing (on the north elevation) varies from this configuration, having thirty small panes in its upper sash rather than two, large, vertical panes as the other windows do. This practice was inspired by the Colonial Revival movement which arose following the nation's centennial celebration in 1876 and was often used to heighten the eclectic spirit of the Queen Anne buildings.

The interior of the Owens house features a flowing, informal floor plan common to the Queen Anne Style. The transom-lighted main entrance opens into the spacious "living hall," a large informal reception and circulation area (which is the dominant trait of a typical Queen Anne interior). Running the depth of the main building block, this hall contains a handsome, quarter-turn stairway with open stairwell which serves as the focal point for the room. The stairway's scalloped spandrel ornaments, hand rail, and finely turned newel post and balusters are all of dark oak. Lining the walls are a chair rail and beaded, vertical board wainscotting which are also of oak. Period builders' guidebooks normally called for construction of a baronial fireplace in the living hall if finances permitted, but in this case, the fireplace was supplanted by a castiron stove.

Double-leaf French doors open into the parlor and dining room, while a single door at the rear of the hall gives access to a back porch. The parlor is roughly sixteen feet square and has a large, finely detailed mantel piece with molded shelf supported by scroll brackets, a beveled mirror overmantel, and an entablature supported on slender, spiral-shaft, Ionic columns. The dining room is slightly larger than the parlor and has a closet and a built-in cupboard which flank the coal-burning fireplace. All first story doors are painted with a "faux bois" treatment resembling golden oak. Circa 1910, brass, electriclight chandeliers are still extant in the hall and dining room.

The second floor contains three bedrooms; a two-story service wing on the rear contains the original kitchen and pantries on the first story level and a service hall and bathing room on the upper level. Walls of the second story rooms are paneled with beaded board pine from which salvageable sections of original wallpaper (ca. 1880's-1890's) have been removed and donated to the Manship House Museum operated by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A one-story sun room and bathroom were added to the northwest corner of the house in the late 1920's but were constructed in such a manner as to be compatible with the original structure. Although the house lay vacant for some time following its use as a low-rent apartment, the building is structurally sound and needs only minor repairs and normal maintenance.

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/HUMANITARIAN __1700-1799 __ART __ENGINEERING __MUSIC THEATER X1800-1899 __COMMERCE __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION __1900-__COMMUNICATIONS __INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY)

__INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a vernacular version of the picturesque, moderately ornate Queen Anne Style villa, the Owens House has great merit and is a fine example of the eclectic tastes which pervaded its time. Additionally, the house is a rare example of well-preserved, late-nine-teenth century architecture in its community and is significant for the excellence of its craftsmanship and detailing.

According to local tradition, the structure today known as the Owens House was built in the 1880's by Evans Lampkin, a prominent Starkville resident (Mrs. Robert H. Lampkin, daughter-in-law of Evans Lampkin, interviewed by Kenneth P'Pool, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Columbus, at Starkville, Miss., Aug. 1980). Not only does the building's design stylistically bear out this date, but the house appears in the background of some 1893 photographs of the house next door (Mrs. J. P. Montgomery, owner of photographs, interviewed by Kenneth P'Pool at Starkville, Aug. 1980). Unfortunately deed records for the property are incomplete, since a fire destroyed many county records about 1900. The locally common appellation for the structure ("the Owens House") comes from the name of the family who occupied the house for many years during the twentieth century.

Architecturally the house is significant as an example of how old and new styles were merged during transitional phases of new architectural movements. Specifically, it is illustrative of the vernacular tendency of local builders of the period to combine features of familiar architectural styles (i.e. Italianate) with a newly popular style such as Queen Anne. While the Owens House is basically Queen Anne in massing and floor plan, the severity and restricted ornamentation of the exterior strongly indicate its Italianate ties, which leads to the conclusion that the house may have been among the first local experimentations with the Queen Anne mode of building. The craftsmanship of both exterior and interior ornament is quite representative of the period. Detailing indicates an increased respect for natural wood finishes (although "faux bois" treatments of some surfaces can still be found) and for heavily carved wooden decoration which, due to improved mechanical technology, could now be made available to more than just the wealthiest members Efforts to economize on unnecessary decorative details (such as elimination of the baronial fireplace in the living hall) suggest that the Owens House represents the aspirations of an upper middle-class family of the late-nineteenth century to construct a fashionable residential villa without overstepping a definite budget.

The Owens House is given added significance for its location and remarkable state of preservation in a community which has few surviving buildings of comparable age. During the 1950's, 60's and 70's, Starkville experienced rapid growth, and most older sections of the city suffered greatly from new construction and commercial development that accompanied the growth. Although located in an area of largely commercial property, the Owens douse is fortunate in that the integrity of its original setting has been well preserved. The present owners of the building have plans for its rehabilitation and adaptation for compatible commercial use. Rehabilitation plans call for the structure's exterior restoration and only minor interior alterations. These alterations are to be made in such

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL REFEI	RENCES		
Lampkin, Mrs. Robert H. architectural histor Columbus, at Starkvi	, daughter-in-law ian with the Missi	of Evans Lampk issippi Departm	in. Interviewed	by Kenneth P'Pool and History,
Montgomery, Mrs. J. P., architectural histor Columbus, at Starkvi	ian with the Missi	issippi Departm	. Interviewed b	y Kenneth P'Pool, and History,
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full) lay is	Luce		DATE ///	24/80
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CHIEF OF REGISTRATION			ı	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED NOV 2 4 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8.9.10 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

a manner as to be reversible should complete restoration be desirable at a future date. A superficial analysis of original paint colors has been conducted and repainting of the building will be based upon the original color scheme.

9 - REFERENCES

Oktibbeha Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 80, pp. 308-309.

P'Pool, Kenneth, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Inspection of Owens House, Starkville, Miss., July 19, 1980.

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Starkville, Miss. for the years 1910 and 1925. New York: Sanborn Map Co. Originals located Mississippi State University Library, Special Collections, State College, Miss.

10 - BOUNDARY

feet; thence east 200 feet; thence with the west side of Montgomery Street north to the beginning; lying in the City of Starkville, County of Oktibbeha, State of Mississippi and being Lot 27 Block 20A on the Official Map of the City of Starkville, 1974 edition.

Lampkin-Owens-Kraker House Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Miss. Floor plan of first story

