

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 17 1977  
DATE ENTERED MAY 26 1977

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

The Isaac Bonham House

AND/OR COMMON

"The Corners"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

601 Klein Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Warren

CODE

149

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ivy

STREET & NUMBER

601 Klein Street

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Warren County Courthouse, Office of the Chancery Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 351

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Corners is a one-and-a-half-story brick residence facing west from a terraced site overlooking the Mississippi River at Vicksburg. Enclosed by an original iron fence cast in Philadelphia, the lower grounds in front of the house are laid out into several parterres bordered by geometric brick walks. A brick paved service yard on the second terrace separates the rear of the house from the final, most elevated terrace. With few exceptions, the brick-lined gutters which drain the site are original.

Characterized by random, almost whimsical massing, conservative Greek Revival details and certain vernacular motifs, the design of The Corners is undoubtedly the product of an untrained, yet competent, architect. The dominant architectural feature is the raised gallery, which fronts the full width of the main block. Its rectangular columns are inlaid with decoratively sawn panels--a popular Vicksburg idiom--and support a wide entablature with dentils and large, paired brackets. Producing an uncommon rhythm by reflecting the balanced yet asymmetrical fenestration of the main block, the first three bays of the gallery are noticeably wider than the remaining three bays. The gable roof complicates the facade further by not extending the full width of the elevation--the remainder being covered with a flat roof screened by a parapet treated as an entablature. The entrance is placed off-center and is marked by a Greek Revival frontispiece with pilasters, wide overhanging cornice, hinged sidelights, and transom. The single-leaf door has four hollow-corner panels with raised moldings. Flanking the entrance are full length, nine-over-nine windows capped by simple flat arches.

On the east, or rear, elevation, a recessed gallery is formed between two flat-roofed wings at the corners of the main block. The gallery's entablature is well proportioned but plain and is supported by heavy, paneled columns and pilasters. Instead of jack arches, decorative cast-iron lintels are used above the window openings on this and the remaining elevations. A long L-shaped service wing extends north and east from the residence and ends with an unrestored two-room servant quarters built at the level of the highest terrace. Because of its elevation, the quarters can only be reached from the exterior.

The plan of The Corners, an expansion and variation of the traditional double-pile formula, accommodates a large parlor, a passage, and bed and sitting rooms in the main block, and a library, a dining room, and kitchen, utility and bed rooms in three separate wings. In most rooms, the interior decoration is quite simple and usually limited to pilaster-like architraves, four-panel doors, and modern wooden cornices. As the "best-room," the parlor has more elaborate trim such as the full plaster entablature with a deeply undercut foliated frieze and the pair of heavy plaster centerpieces. A fine gilded centerpiece

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 9 PAGE 1

7 - DESCRIPTION

in the dining room is composed of appropriately symbolic grapes, pears, and pineapples. Also in this room are cupboards with butterfly shelves flanking the fireplace.

Before it was purchased by the current owners in 1960, The Corners had been divided into apartments, an alteration that, fortunately, affected only the interior. To restore the interior, a partition dividing the parlors into two rooms was removed, the floors were patched and the entablature was repaired. Bathrooms were installed in former dressing rooms and the original kitchen was updated. The only adverse action taken during this rehabilitation occurred when the original arched, marble mantels were removed and replaced by ones of earlier designs. The most notable among these are the pair of Federal mantels in the parlor which were made in northern Delaware.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vicksburg (Miss.) Evening Post, August 13, 1883; February 4, 1884.

Warren County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed books 113, 140, 155, 247, 356. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

# 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 checked="" 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

1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John A. Klein

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1873, The Corners is a highly individual architectural composition which includes elements of several styles. Although the fashionable Rococo Revival appears in some of the interior plaster decoration, the conservative Greek Revival vernacular style of Vicksburg predominates. The sawn inlays of the gallery are particularly characteristic, as are the interior door and window frames and the entrance frontispieces. The Corners is one of the largest, most ambitious, and best preserved residences in Vicksburg employing these local idioms. In addition to its architectural significance, the house enjoys a rare degree of landscape integrity: its walks, parterres, fences, and even the drainage system have survived intact.

The Corners was built by John A. Klein as a wedding gift to his daughter, Susan, who married Captain Isaac Bonham on May 7, 1873. Klein was a wealthy businessman who was described by one contemporary as having "a great passion for building" (Vicksburg Evening Post, February 4, 1884). His own neighboring residence, Cedar Grove, evolved by additions and re-modellings that spanned a thirty-year period (ca. 1840-70), during which time he is thought to have been his own architect. Although no documentation has yet appeared, Klein is also believed to have designed The Corners, using the same basic plan and many of the same decorative elements found at Cedar Grove.

Bonham, a native of Virginia who served in General Turner Ashby's 7th Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War, was the cashier of a local ice company at the time of his marriage to Susan Klein. Within a few years he became a cotton factor and grocer in the firm of Halpin & Bonham, of which he was sole owner by 1882. The following year, at age thirty-six, Bonham was killed while attempting to quiet a barroom brawl (Vicksburg Evening Post, August 13, 1883). Bonham's widow continued to reside at The Corners until 1919, when the property was sold to Antoine Tonnar, a wealthy planter (Deed book 140:326). In four years the house was again sold and, until purchased by its current owners in 1960, served as an apartment house (Deed books 155:355, 356:357). Now completely rehabilitated, The Corners is once again a single-family dwelling which is opened regularly to the public.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. National Register File. Warren County. Cedar Grove.

Tuttle, A. C. Complete Directory of the City of Vicksburg. Vicksburg: Rogers and Groome, Steam Book and Job Printers, 1877.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One-half acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	6,9,9	0,5,0	3,5	8,0	0,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C						

B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

DATE

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

STATE

Mississippi

# 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

*Elbert B. Hilliard*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 11, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles A. [Signature]*

DATE

5-26-77

DATE

5/26/77