

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 28 1987

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Turcotte House

and or common Brown's Box

2. Location

street & number Eight miles southeast of Brandon on Miss. Hwy 17 N/A not for publication

city, town Brandon X vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Rankin code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 Ruby Brown Ross Trust, c/o Nathan Best

street & number P. O. Box 1446

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Mississippi 39205

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Brandon state Mississippi 39042

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi 39205

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1880, the Turcotte House is a one-story, frame, vernacular farmhouse surrounded by 9.5 acres of land. The side-gabled house, which faces northeast, is rectangular in plan and has a rear ell. In addition to the house, the nominated property includes five nearby outbuildings: a well house, chicken house and three shed houses.

Originally a central hall house with one room on each side of the hall, the house has undergone several additions. First, the central hall was extended back and a bedroom was added to each side. Then, a narrower hall was continued to the rear of the house and a storage room, kitchen and bath placed astride it, forming an ell. The present front porch was added c. 1915.

The house is raised on stone piers, and the exterior is finished with lapped siding and plain cornerboards. The main facade is a symmetrical, five-bay elevation with a central entrance, which has a paneled door surrounded by a transom light and side lights is at the entrance. The windows throughout the house are six-over-six, double-hung sash. A plain frieze trims the side-gabled roof, which is covered with corrugated tin. An exterior chimney is at each end of the house, the southeast chimney being brick and the northwest chimney being coursed ashlar.

Extending across the three central bays of the facade is a Bungalow style porch with battered wood columns on brick bases. The porch has been enclosed with screening and is capped with a hipped roof covered with corrugated tin.

The interior of the house is significant for its interior finish materials and quality of workmanship. Floors are matched pine boards, now in some instances covered with linoleum. Walls are horizontal, matched pine boards which have never been painted. Ceilings are similar. Doors are paneled. Door casings in the central passage have simple, eared, slightly pedimented heads, a vernacular interpretation of a popular nineteenth-century Classical Revival motif found in pattern books such as those of Minard Lafever. A profile of this molding is shown on a continuation sheet. The northwest room has the finest millwork. Doors and windows here are cased in a similar fashion to the hall doors. Recessed dado panels are used at the windows. A deep base molding is employed around the room's full perimeter. The mantle continues the use of Classical motifs. It consists of Doric pilasters supporting a deep, plain entablature. The millwork in the southwest room is similar but simpler. The mantle here employs recessed panels instead of pilasters, a device which is repeated in the entablature. Similar millwork also appears in the rooms added directly behind each front room. Millwork in the rear additions is much simpler and is not significant.

The house is accompanied by the aforementioned outbuildings. The most significant structures are the chicken house and adjacent large

(CONTINUED)

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 1880 **Builder/Architect** Turcotte, Amabile and William H.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Turcotte House derives its significance from its high degree of interior craftsmanship (Criterion C). The interior millwork is very sophisticated for such a small vernacular house of its period in rural Mississippi. The nominated property, with its house and five outbuildings, represents one of the most complete nineteenth century farmsteads remaining in the area.

The builder of the house was Amabile Turcotte, who was born in Quebec, worked in the shipyards in St. Louis, and then moved to Mobile where he was a shipfitter, carpenter and interior finish man in the Mobile shipyards. Amabile moved his family to Rankin County, Mississippi, in 1878, and he and his sons began construction of the Turcotte House in 1880. One son, William H., designed the house and supervised the cutting of virgin pine timber from the surrounding property. The timber was sawed, milled, planed and framed in a mill near the existing house (Bob Turcotte, great grandson of Amabile Turcotte, interviewed by Nathan C. Best, May 22, 1986).

The interior of the house exhibits a high quality of workmanship. Floors are matched pine boards, and walls are finished with horizontal, matched pine boards which have never been painted. The millwork displays vernacular adaptations of Classical Revival designs and illustrates the persistence of the Greek Revival motifs so highly favored in Mississippi before the Civil War. This millwork includes two fine mantles, one with Doric pilasters and a plain entablature and one with paneled pilasters and paneled entablature; molded, eared door casings with slightly pedimented heads; similar fully cased windows with dado panels; and paneled doors.

Amabile and William H. Turcotte also built the old Cato Church in Cato, Mississippi. William became a well-known contractor and builder throughout Rankin, Simpson, Scott and Hinds Counties, and trained and employed all of his sons in his trade. They built the old Baptist Church in Florence around 1902 and the old Rock Hill Baptist Church and school in 1903. In 1904 they were commissioned to build all of the depots and section houses for the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad line from Florence to Saratoga, Mississippi, including depots at Mendenhall and Magee (Turcotte).

The Turcotte House was sold to Mr. W.S. Chapman and wife in 1905. They, in turn, conveyed title to Mr. Henry Brown and wife that same year (Turcotte). The house is currently owned by heirs of the Browns.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fazio, Michael. Inspection of Turcotte House. September 1985.

Turcotte, Bob, great grandson of Amabile Turcotte. Interviewed by Nathan C. Best, May 22, 1986.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 9.5 acres

Quadrangle name Pucket NW

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	2	2	5	0	6	0	3	5	6	4	3	0	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

All that part of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying South and West of Mississippi State Highway No. 18; and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$; all in section 17, Township 4 North, Range 4 East Rankin County, Mississippi.

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 Michael Fazio (Revised by Brenda Rubach, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History, 4/87)

organization N/A date 11-30-85

street & number P. O. Box 2870 telephone (601) 323-3451

city or town Mississippi State state MS 39762

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 April 23, 1987

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

Ray Schlager

date 6/4/87

Keeper of the National Register

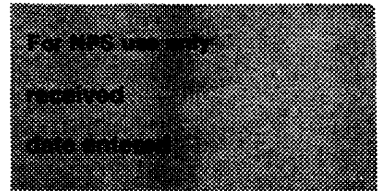
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Turcotte House, Rankin Co. MS Item number 7

Page 1

shed, both of which have board and batten siding and tin roofs. Because these outbuildings do not exhibit the fine craftsmanship which characterizes the house itself, they are not being submitted as contributing elements of this property, per se, although they add to the integrity of the setting. For tabulation purposes this nomination is considered to consist of one contributing (the house) and five noncontributing properties.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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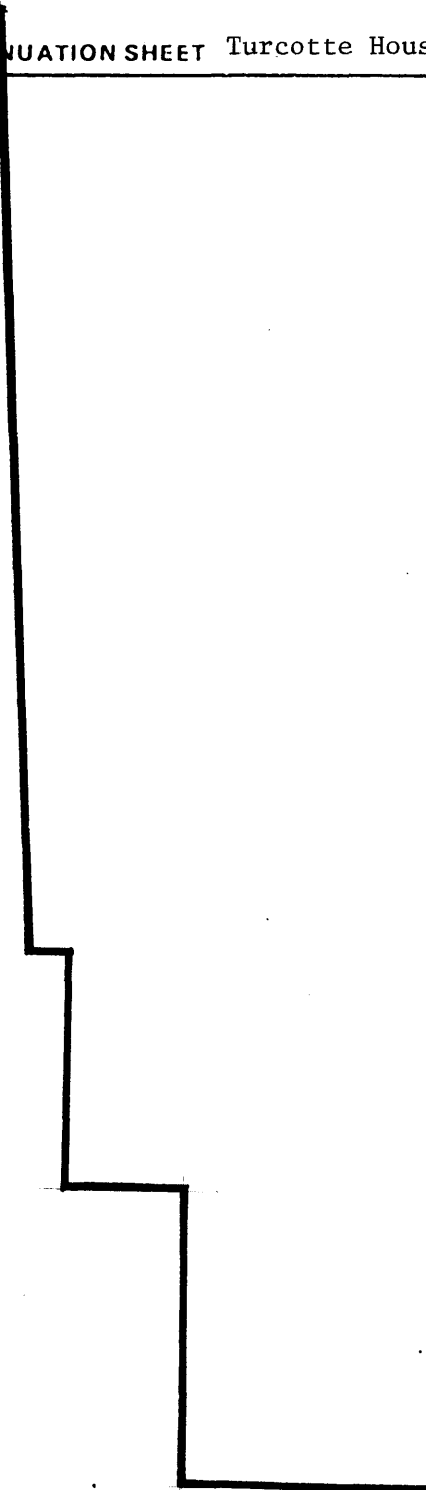
RECEIVED

SEP 19 1986

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Turcotte House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2



MOLDING PROFILE AT CENTRAL PASSAGE
FULL SIZE