

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Captain Harris House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 2106 Young not for publication

city, town Memphis vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Tennessee code 045 county Shelby code 157

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

4. Owner of Property

name Luther Armstrong

street & number 2106 Young Avenue

city, town Memphis vicinity of state Tennessee 38104

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar

street & number Shelby County Courthouse

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Memphis Landmarks Commission Preliminary Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission Suite 923, Fall Building

city, town 22 North Front Street, Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		(house is on original site but was turned in 1925)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain Harris House, a large two-and-one-half story, frame Queen Anne residence, sits on a slightly elevated lot--one hundred feet by one hundred ninety-nine feet--on the north side of Young Avenue between Peabody School on the west and a former service station converted to a marine sales business on the east. Although the house originally faced west, it was turned in 1925 to face Young Avenue on the south. A concrete driveway along the western edge of the lot leads to a two-story garage behind the house.

With its asymmetrical massing, round two-and-one-half story turret, porch and roof gables, bay windows and contrasting wall textures, the house is the best example in Memphis of a frame Queen Anne residence. However, other stylistic influences can be seen. Divisions in the siding are indicative of the Stick Style while carved sunburst panels above the windows in the second story, decorative circular perforations and arched attic windows could be classified as Eastlake.

Of frame construction with a brick foundation, the house is rectangular in plan under a hip under a hip roof with a gable section extending along the east side of the house. Another gable on the west elevation is located immediately behind the turret at the corner of the facade (south elevation) and west elevation. A third gable wind sits perpendicular to the main body of the house at the north (rear). The roof is covered with composition shingles. Brick interior chimneys are located on the east slope of the hip roof and on the west gable. In contrast to the weatherboard used over most of the structure, the turret and portions of the second story are covered with wood shingles arranged with butts alternating up and down. The richness of texture is increased by alternating rows of square butts with rows of round ones.

The facade is dominated by the circular turret at the west corner. It originally had a high bell-shaped roof but now has a low conical one. In each of the first two stories there are three one-over-one double hung sash windows with wood surrounds. In the attic story there are three smaller single-light windows. A wide one-story veranda with bracketed posts extends across the facade and around the turret; to the right of the turret the sloping roof of the veranda is interrupted by a gabled entry. The porch roof to the right of the gable has been altered and does not match the original roof to the left of the gable. The wood gable end is carved in a fan motif with circular perforations radiating from the point of the gable in increasing size. Below this is a dentilled cornice. Three doors open onto the veranda. The original door is in the center while two additional doors were cut on either side when the house was converted to a multi-family dwelling. The door on the right end has a transom and sidelights.

In the second story of the main facade another porch is located above the entry gable. It features a pagoda-like roof and carved railing. A pair of French doors leads off the porch. To the right of the porch under the front gable is a grouping of three one-over-one double hung sash windows with wood surrounds. Above this are three carved sunburst panels. In the gable is a semi-circular arched opening containing a one-over one, double-hung sash window flanked by two single-light windows with curved outer edges.

The east elevation features a bay window in the south end of the first story. The remaining four bays contain single windows like those in the turret. The gabled section at the rear of the house contains a band of four single light windows with transoms.

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(11/78)

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The rear (north) elevation has been altered extensively. Doors and a wooden exterior stairway were added when the house was converted to apartments.

In the west elevation the porch terminates behind the turret although it originally stretched the length of the facade. The cross gable behind the turret has a grouping of three windows in the second story like that on the facade. The first floor contains a picture window. A one-story shed addition extends along the remainder of the facade.

The overall exterior condition of the house is good to fair. The interior has been divided into apartments but retains the original carved wood mantels and door and window trim.

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** Frank Trimble

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Captain Harris House is significant for its articulation of the Queen Anne style. It is also important for its ties to William Faulkner and American literature.

Although Memphis has preserved some excellent examples of Victorian architecture in masonry and stucco (most notably in Victorian Village and Vance-Pontotoc areas), the Captain Harris House is a rare example of the Queen Anne style executed in frame. As such it serves as a reminder of the prosperity and classic orientation that prevailed when the house was built in 1898 by real estate developer Frank Trimble.

When the house was purchased by Captain Harris in 1900, it sat on a hill surrounded by three acres of land. Later, sections of the parcel were sold, and in 1925, the house, which had faced west, was turned to face Young Avenue on the south. Four generations of the family lived in the house until 1935.

Captain Harris was one of the originators of the railroad through Ripley, Mississippi, along with Colonel Falkner and R. J. Thurmond. This railroad was to connect Ripley, Mississippi, with the Memphis and Charleston line at Middleton, Tennessee. This narrow gauged, funnel stacked, wood burner became known as the Doodlebug line. Financial difficulties arose; \$250,000 worth of bonds went into default. There was an attempted coup by Falkner's partner, R. J. Thurmond. The two major stockholders and minor stockholders lined up against each other. By 1886 Falkner made an all out attempt to gain control of the railroad. They drew lots, with the loser to set his price. Thurmond lost and set the price at \$19,000 in gold. Falkner borrowed from every person, coming to Memphis friends, where the popularity of his book, The White Rose of Memphis, published five years earlier, had spread his reputation. Finally, with money in hand, Falkner bought out Thurmond, who by now thoroughly hated him. The feud grew to nasty proportions. On November 4, 1889 at 4:30 p.m., R. J. Thurmond shot Colonel Falkner who died the next night. Two friends of Thurmond, Joe Brown and Jim Harris, Captain Harris' son (who was married to Mary Thurmond, sister of Richard Jackson Thurmond, Jr.) borrowed a handcar of the railroad, pumped it by hand the twenty miles to New Albany, Mississippi and persuaded a famous lawyer, Judge Zacharias M. Stephens, to defend Thurmond. Thurmond was brought to trial February 19, 1890 and he was acquitted much to the fury of Falkner's family and friends. The Grenada Sentinel labeled the trial "a mockery of justice." The dead man's son was persuaded not to avenge his father's death and let the feud die, but the town took sides for these two were prominent families.

It is probable that this episode occasioned the Harris family's move from Ripley, Mississippi to Memphis in the late 1890s. Colonel Falkner's great grandson, William Faulkner, used this story in both Requiem for a Nun and The Unvanquished.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Joseph Blotner, Faulkner, A Biography, I (New York: Random House).
Elmwood Cemetery Records.

Interview of Fred Murry by Virginia Dunaway, June 14, 1977. Oral History, Memphis Room,
Memphis-Shelby County Public Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .45
Quadrangle name Southeast Memphis, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is rectangular tract which measures 100 feet by 199 feet, contains approximately .45 acre, and is bounded as follows: beginning at a point 162 feet west of Cooper Street along the north right-of-way of Young Avenue; thence north 199 feet; thence

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 Peggy Jemison, Researcher,
Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA)

organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date November, 1977

street & number 22 North Front Street telephone (901) 528-2834

city or town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 10/16/79

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

Sally G. Oldham

date 12/19/79

Keeper of the National Register

Acting Chief of Regis

Attest:

Kristin O'Connell

date 12/12/79

Chief of Registration

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Interview of Mrs. Louise Rogers by Peggy Jemison and Virginia Dunaway,
May 9, 1977. Oral History, Memphis Room, Memphis-Shelby County Public Library.

Interview of Mrs. Jean McCarley Stevenson by Peggy Jemison and Virginia Dunaway,
July 1, 1977. Oral History, Memphis Room. Memphis-Shelby County Public Library.

Interview of Mrs. Estelle Webb by Peggy Jemison and Virginia Dunaway, May 27,
1977. Oral History, Memphis Room, Memphis Shelby County Public Library.

Mid-South Title Records, Book 285, p. 457.

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west 100 feet; thence south 199 feet; thence east 100 feet along the north right-of-way of Young Avenue to the beginning. This is the entire tract owned by Luther Armstrong.