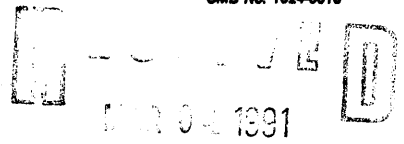


322

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Watkins, W. W., House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 600 West Commerce Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Aberdeen N/A  vicinity  
state Mississippi code MS county Monroe code 095 zip code 39730

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Aberdeen MRA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Peck  
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

FEB. 25, 1991  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the National Register**  
Andrew Byers 4/5/91  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

*Andrew Byers*

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood

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roof other: composition shingle

other porch: wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located at the northwestern corner of Commerce Street (Aberdeen's main thoroughfare) and Franklin Street, facing south, the W. W. Watkins House is a two story wood-frame house built about 1905. Stylistically it exhibits what can be termed the "free classical" style, an informal mode of Classical Revival architecture combining elements of the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival styles.

The symmetricality of the front facade is broken only by a small, off-center gable. The facade is dominated by a broad, one-story veranda that extends beyond the sides of the house to terminate in two matching circular pavilions. The pavilion on the west shelters a porte-cochere. On the east, the veranda extends back from the circular pavilion for about one-third of the length of the east wall of the house. The veranda rests upon a brick foundation wall. Brick pedestals rise above the floor of the veranda to support the fourteen fluted Ionic columns which carry the veranda's denticulated entablature. There is no balustrade.

The house itself is rectangular in shape, with shallow polygonal bays projecting from the center of the east and west walls. The front door is a replacement, but copies the original. Flanking the door are leaded glass sidelights. On either side of the entrance is a single window consisting of a large, single-pane lower sash and a small clear leaded-glass upper sash. These are "pocket windows" in which the lower sash lifts into a pocket in the wall above the window.

On the upper story of the front facade is a small central door, affording access to the flat roof of the veranda, flanked by windows matching those of the lower story, except that the upper sashes have stained glass instead of clear leaded glass. Above the door is a small shed roof which appears to have been added at some later date.

The roof is a truncated pyramid with an off-center front gable and gables projecting over the polygonal bays on either side. The roof is surfaced with composition shingles.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Watkins, W. W., House, Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi

Section number   7   Page   1  

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The interior is asymmetrically arranged. Immediately inside the entrance is the west parlor, which is placed off-center. The parlor contains a Classical Revival mantelpiece incorporating freestanding columns, but the original tile facing has been removed and replaced with brick. At the rear of the parlor, aligned with the main entrance, is a door leading to a central corridor. To the right upon entering is a double-leaf door opening to the east parlor, in the corner of which is an elaborate original mantel with a glazed tile facing. From the east parlor another set of double-leaf doors leads northward into the dining room, the most ornate room of the house. The dining room, like the east parlor, contains an elaborate Classical Revival corner mantel with glazed tile facing. The ceiling of the dining room is pressed metal. The east wall of the dining room forms a polygonal bay, in one face of which is a door opening to the veranda. Beyond the dining room is the kitchen, which has been remodeled. West of the dining room is the central corridor, which connects to the staircase, the (former) library, which has a polygonal bay, and a downstairs rear bedroom. Upstairs are four bedrooms and a bathroom opening off of a central corridor. Two of the bedrooms have polygonal bays. The library and all of the bedrooms contain original mantels and trim. The downstairs trim has a Classical Revival pattern, but the upstairs doorcases and windowcases are of a molded Queen Anne pattern with corner blocks.

The house is well maintained and retains a high degree of integrity throughout.

There are no surviving outbuildings nor any significant landscape features.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1905  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

ca. 1905  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The W. W. Watkins House is architecturally important in the City of Aberdeen as one of the city's largest and most prominent examples of "free classical" residential architecture of the early 20th century.

The cover documentation for the Aberdeen Multiple Resource Area (submitted to the National Register in 1988) indicates that Aberdeen experienced a period of growth and prosperity between about 1880 and 1930. During the first decade of the twentieth century, in the middle years of this period of expansion, numerous houses were built in Aberdeen in the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles. The use of those stylistic designations is somewhat misleading in the case of Aberdeen, for the houses of that period typically exhibited a more eclectic and informal version of Classical Revival architecture which might be more accurately termed "free classical," combining elements of both the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival styles. Most of Aberdeen's turn-of-the-century Classical Revival houses were one-story cottages, but several larger and more elaborate examples were built, including "Buena Vista" (1902) at 308 South Franklin Street and "Rosemont" (1907) at 407 South Meridian Street (both of which are contributing elements of the South Central Aberdeen Historic District). The W. W. Watkins House, built about 1905, is similar to those houses in size and character, but with its almost symmetrical shape, its leaded-glass windows, and its flat-roofed porch with circular end pavilions and Ionic columns, it shows rather more Neoclassical influence than the other two houses, which are more Colonial Revival in character.

The Watkins House possesses a high degree of integrity on both its exterior and its interior. Notable interior features include elaborate Classical Revival mantelpieces with glazed tile facings in the east parlor and in the dining room, seven other less ornate original mantels, a pressed metal ceiling in the dining room, and original woodwork and hardware throughout the house. Of particular interest are its five "pocket" windows, which consist of a small decorative upper sash and a large, single-pane lower sash which lifts into a pocket in the wall above the

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Watkins, W. W., House, Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 1

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window. The decorative upper sashes of the two front downstairs pocket windows are filled with beveled leaded glass, while those upstairs and in the dining room contain stained glass. Another stained glass panel illuminates the staircase.

The house was constructed about 1905 for Dr. William Whitfield Watkins, a locally prominent physician. The house was sold to the Flynt family in 1920, and was purchased by the Ballard family in 1966. In February 1989 the house was purchased by its current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Malone Jackson.

It was not initially included in the Aberdeen MRA in 1987-88 because of the somewhat deteriorated appearance of the house at the time and lack of information about its interior character and integrity. The Jacksons have been restoring the house since they acquired it and its overall integrity can now be appreciated.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Monroe County, Mississippi, Deed Book 76

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	6
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3	5	6	4	7	5
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3	7	4	3	7	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** Beginning at the SE Corner of Block Seven (7) and running from thence West along the North side of Commerce Street 100 feet to a point, thence North 116 feet to a point, thence West about 81 feet to East boundary line of the M. & O. Railroad land, thence in a Northerly direction along the Eastern boundary line of the said Railroad property about 47 feet to a point, thence East about 181 feet to Franklin Street, thence South 156 feet to the point of beginning, all in that part of the City of Aberdeen known as "New Aberdeen."

See continuation sheet

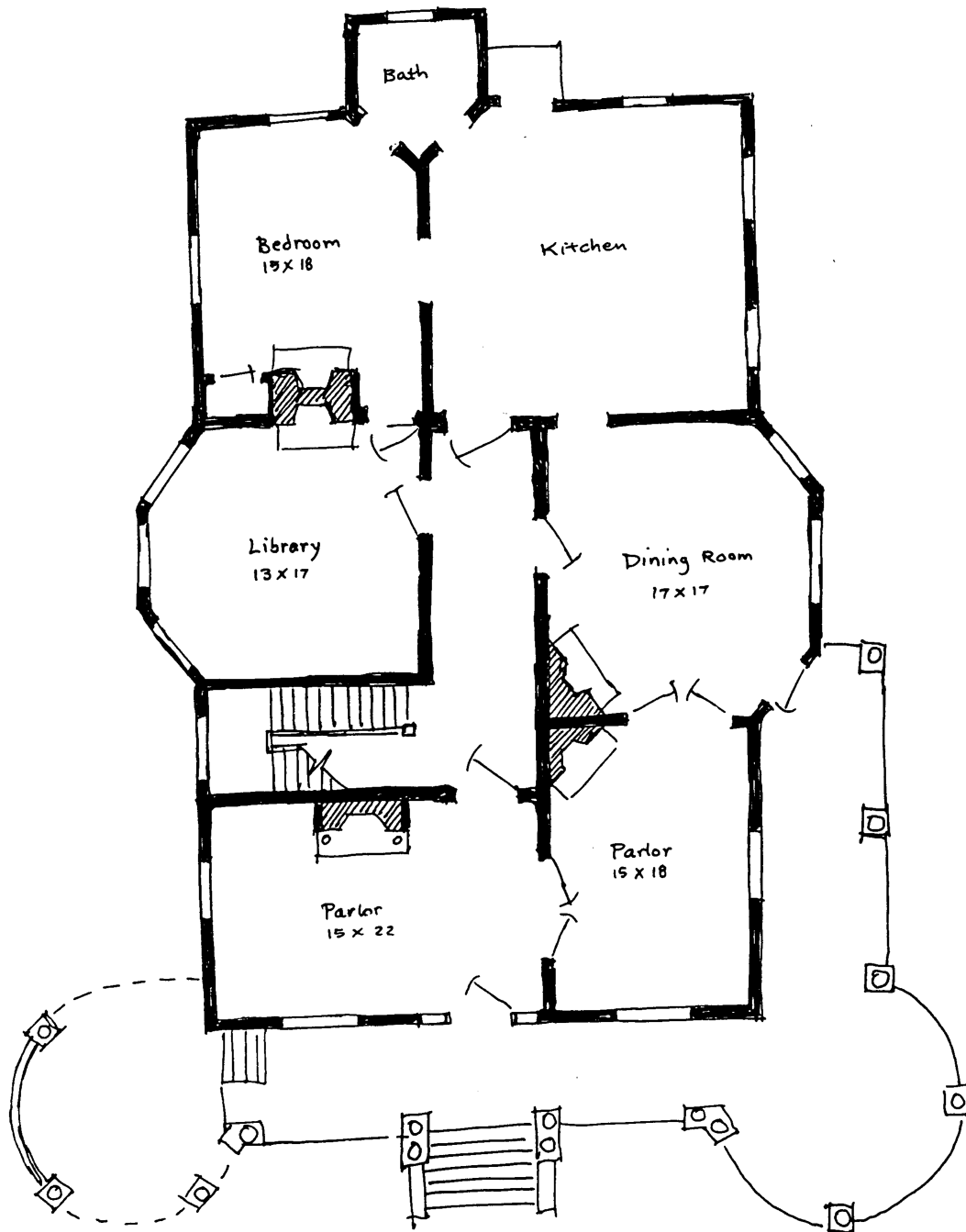
**Boundary Justification**

This is the city lot historically associated with the house.

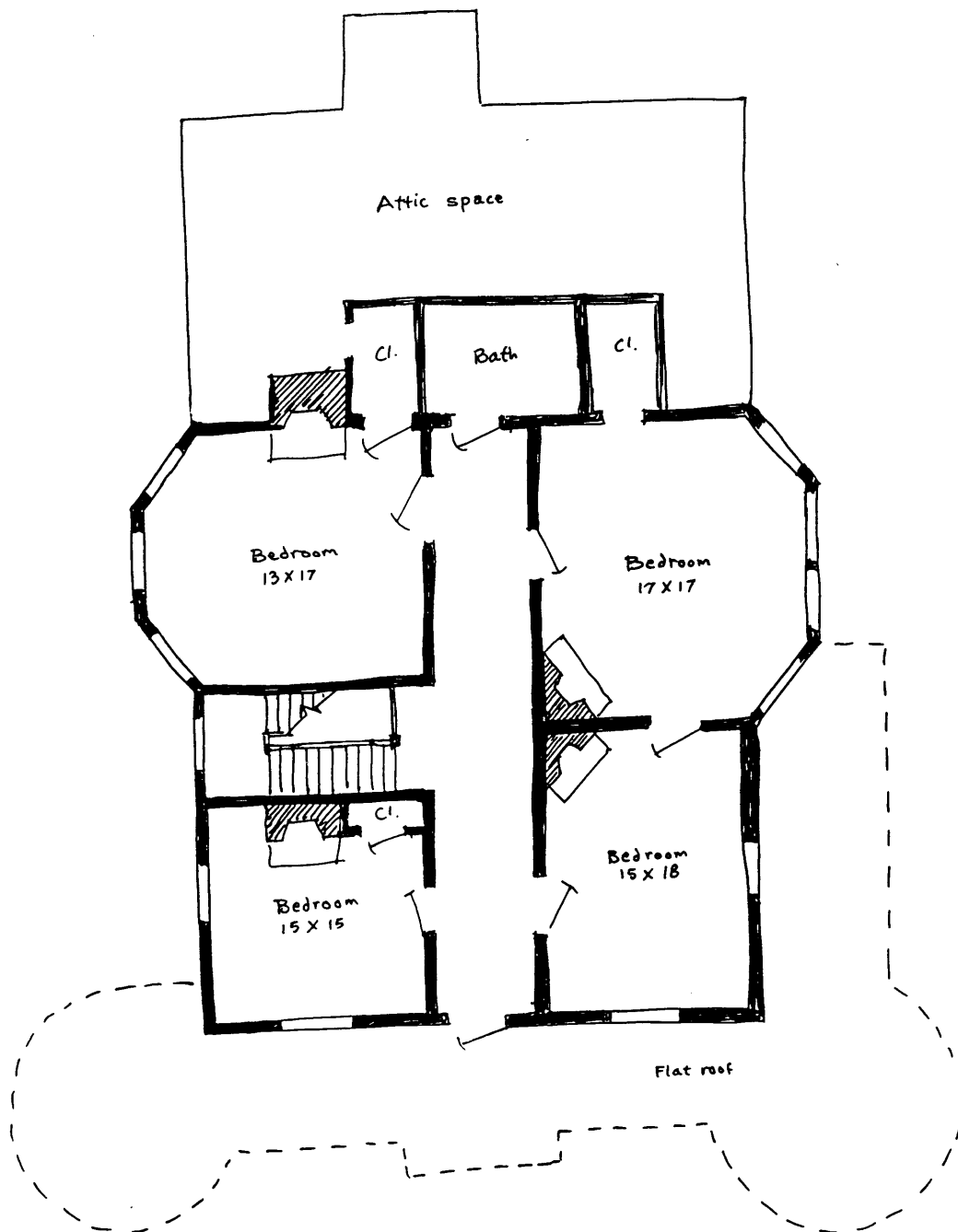
See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian  
 organization MS Dept. of Archives & History date January 8, 1991  
 street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940  
 city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205



W. W. Watkins House  
First Floor Plan  
not to scale



W. W. Watkins House  
Second Floor Plan  
not to scale



W.W. Watkins House  
Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi

