

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 12 1979

DATE ENTERED MAR 29 1979

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

Beck House

AND/OR COMMON

Beck House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1101 South Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Warren

CODE

149

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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"/> 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harry M. Yoste, Jr. and Beverly A. Bolton ✓

STREET & NUMBER

1101 South Street

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39180

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Cherry Street

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

STATE

Mississippi 39180

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

August 21, 1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Located at the northeast corner of the intersection of South and Adams streets in Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Beck House is a brick two-story Italianate residence built in 1875. The facade (or south elevation) is an asymmetrical composition with a gabled pavilion placed to the side of a recessed three-bay section fronted by a gallery. Contributing variety and picturesqueness to the design are paired brackets, a paneled frieze, saw-tooth decoration below the eaves, a projecting bay, and the scrollwork between the chamfered columns of the gallery. The main entrance to the house is contained in a massive frontispiece with paneled pilasters supporting an overhanging bracketed cornice. Above the door opening, originally fitted with double-leaf doors, now missing, is a large semicircular transom. The double-hung one-over-one windows have openings capped by segmental arches with stone imposts and keystones. An all-stretcher veneer of machine-made brick masks the structural wall, laid in eight-course common bond. Capping the composition is an octagonal lantern with arched lights, pilasters, and bracketed cornice.

The plan of the Beck House provided for double parlors in the gabled-pavilion section and for a stair hall and library behind the gallery. Notable interior woodwork includes window and door architraves designed with molded and grained fasciae surrounded by bulbous backbands, part of which return to form the cap of the baseboard. In the entrance hall is an elaborate open-well staircase fitted with spiral-fluted balusters and an imposing square newel with hollow corners and engaged columns highlighted with color. Decorative plasterwork is generally simple throughout the house except in the front parlor, where a robust ceiling decoration designed with a foliated Rococo centerpiece is set into a field outlined in bead-and-reel moldings punctuated with bosses. The cornice and bay-window arch are also greatly enriched with plaster moldings, consoles, foliated guilloches, and cartouches. Evidence of a stenciled floor painted with reds, blacks, and ochers, can be seen in the parlor, but only a small portion remains.

The original appearance of the north (or rear) elevation of the Beck House was lost when a large addition was constructed ca. 1900 to accommodate a music room, dining room, pantry, kitchen, and bedrooms. While the exterior of the addition was carefully matched with the existing structure, the interior was decorated in the latest Edwardian fashion then in vogue. The dining room is fully paneled with decorative reliefs in pressed veneers, and the music room contains paneling carved with profiles of Beethoven and Mozart. Simple fluted window and door frames with corner blocks, and large glazed cabinets remain in the kitchen and pantry. A large arched porte-cochère connects the addition to an original brick carriage house, the jerkinhead roof of which is capped by a picturesque louvered cupola.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1875 , ca. 1900                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      R. F. Beck

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beck House is significant as the residence of R. F. Beck (1841-1891), a prominent figure in the commercial and political history of Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the post-Civil War era. Although involved in a number of business activities, Beck was principally a building contractor credited with erecting "a large number of the finest buildings in Vicksburg" (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, 2 vols., [Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891], I, 368), of which his own residence is considered the most notable. Although it has suffered from unsympathetic treatment and outright abuse in recent years, the Beck House remains the most important example of the domestic High Victorian Italianate style in Vicksburg.

The son of a stonecutter, Beck was born in upstate New York in 1841 and arrived in Vicksburg by way of St. Louis in 1865. As a builder he was undoubtedly attracted to Vicksburg by the great demand for builders occasioned by the devastation of the city during the Civil War. Beginning with only a brickyard, Beck rapidly expanded his business interests to an involvement with many areas of the commercial life of Vicksburg. During his career Beck was president of the Vicksburg Building Association, a director of the First National Bank, an organizer and director of the Home Insurance Company, a director of the Yazoo and Tallahatchie Steamboat Line, and the secretary-treasurer of the Vicksburg and Delta Transportation Company, the Vicksburg Express Company, the Wharf and Land Company, and the Wharf and Elevator Company. He added agriculture to his other enterprises, ca. 1880, planting thousands of acres on three plantations in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana (Memoirs, I, 367-368). Beck served as sheriff of Warren County for six years, and as mayor of Vicksburg for three terms, during which time the city "improved very materially, many works of a public character having been completed besides a number of private enterprises started" (In and About Vicksburg [Vicksburg: The Gibraltar Publishing Co., 1890], p. 185).

Beck began construction of his residence on South Street in 1875. The house was undoubtedly completed at the time of his marriage to Mary Ellen Rigby the following year. Mrs. Beck furnished the house with "innumerable articles of virtu collected at her order from various parts of the world, the whole making one of the most costly and beautiful private collections in the South" (Memoirs, I, 368). After Beck's death in 1891, his widow married the family chauffeur, S. R. Hughes, and continued to improve her "elegant and artistic" (Ibid.) residence by adding the rear wing. Until 1971, the residence was owned by Mrs. Beck's daughter, from whose estate it was sold to the Community Council, a charitable organization which used the structure as a "halfway house," during which use the house suffered from neglect and vandalism. The present owners, who purchased the Beck House in 1978, plan to return the residence into a single-family dwelling.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, William C., architectural historian. Inspection of the Beck House, Vicksburg, Miss., Oct. 21, 1978.

Bolton, Beverly, owner of the Beck House. Interviewed by William C. Allen, architectural historian, at Vicksburg, Miss., Oct. 21, 1978.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Vicksburg West, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

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

B                                
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                              

D                              

E                              

F                              

G                              

H                              

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of South and Adams streets, then north 147', then east 105', then south 147', then west 105' to point of beginning.

## 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

Private consultant

DATE

December 7, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1115 Quinn Street

TELEPHONE

601-353-5309

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39202

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

*Edward R. Hilliard*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 7, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3-29-77

DATE 3/20/77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	FEB 12 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 20 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

In and About Vicksburg. Vicksburg: The Gibraltar Publishing Co., 1890.