

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received APR 25 1984  
date entered

1. Name

historic Magruder-Morrissey House

and/or common Towne House

2. Location

street & number 1117 Cherry Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Vicksburg

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Warren

code 149

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 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ethel Towne

street & number 1117 Cherry Street

city, town Vicksburg

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

5. 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

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi

# 7. Description

**Condition**  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**  
 unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**  
 original site  
 moved date N/A

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Towne House, located at 1117 Cherry Street in Vicksburg, Mississippi, is a large, five-bay, two-story brick residence built in 1851. The structure is visually impressive because it sits on a hill facing west and is stuccoed to resemble rusticated stone. The body of the structure is painted a mustard color and the trim and quoines are painted white to give them more emphasis and making the house more imposing.

The most prominent feature of the house is the large, one-story verandah supported by six square stuccoed columns and decorated with a deep bracketed cornice. This design is continued around the perimeter of the building. The porch was added prior to 1886, replacing a simple two-tier portico. It appears that the stucco was also added to the entire building at this time. The entryway is very imposing with glazed double doors, an ovoid transom, a heavy bracketed cornice, and paneled surrounds. The windows are double hung with the lower sash containing a single light while the upper sash is composed of vertical panes which terminate in simple intersecting tracery at the sash head.

A one-story addition was made to the north side of the building prior to 1864. The cornice, columns, and windows of this addition mimic those of the original building. The cornice is very deep and hides the gable end of the roof covering this addition.

Much of the original character of the rear is not visible because of various additions made through the years. The porch was enclosed for a kitchen and a room was added to the second floor of the south side of the rear and elevated on square columns.

The structure is of a central hall plan with two rooms to the right of the stair and one to the left. An unusually wide L-shaped stair is elegantly detailed and leads to the second floor hall flanked by two rooms on each side. The house has been kept in excellent repair and maintains most all of the original decorative elements. These include finely detailed plaster medallions, brass chandeliers, marble mantels, and walnut pocket doors. There are several outbuildings to the rear of the structure and the yard is graced by a number of very large magnolia trees.

# 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/
<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** ca. 1851 **Builder/Architect** N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Towne House is significant architecturally as a visual reminder of the prosperous antebellum era in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The house was built ca. 1851 by Dr. A. L. Magruder and used as his office and residence. Its location on a hill overlooking downtown Vicksburg and its large magnolia trees give the house a very stately and imposing quality. All elements of the house are well crafted and finely detailed. There are many other two-story antebellum houses in Vicksburg, but none has a stuccoed exterior of this quality nor has been kept in such excellent repair.

Despite its close proximity to the Warren County Courthouse and its seemingly vulnerable position on a hill, the Towne House suffered only minor damage during the Civil War. After the war the new porch and stucco were added. They illustrate the prosperity that Vicksburg was witnessing following Reconstruction. These additions were made after Dr. Magruder sold the house to Nathaniel Thomas in 1869. The house changed hands again in 1900 when it was sold to Regina Hirsch, whose husband was a prominent Vicksburg lawyer, and again in 1907 when T. M. Morrissey bought the property (Warren County, Miss., Deed Book Records).

The Morrisseys were successful businessmen in Vicksburg during the first half of the twentieth century. T. M. Morrissey was president of the Morrissey-Easton Tractor Company and held major interests in Morrissey Construction Company and Morrissey Wholesale liquors.

Many of Vicksburg's antebellum homes have been destroyed or have been terribly mistreated and neglected over the years. The Towne House is one of the few of the city's mansions to have remained a single family dwelling and to have been maintained in excellent condition with no loss of integrity to the interior or exterior.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jackson, Mississippi. Department of Archives and History. Vicksburg Historic Survey, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Sanborn Insurance Map Collection for Mississippi. "Vicksburg." New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1907, 1914, 1925. (continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one

Quadrangle name Vicksburg West, Miss.-La.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	6	9	9	6	9	9	3	5	8	1	1	2	2
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

A property being parcel 454 of Block 44 of the city of Vicksburg, fronting on Cherry Street and presently having the city address of 1117 Cherry Street.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	N/A	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy H. Bell, Executive Director

Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation  
organization Preservation date November 1983

street & number 1107 Washington Street telephone (601) 638-6514

city or town Vicksburg 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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth A. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date April 20, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-24-84

for Alvora Byers  
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

Item number 9

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vicksburg Directory Company. Vicksburg City Directory. Vicksburg: Vicksburg  
Printing Company, 1895, 1907, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1926, 1939.

Vicksburg, Mississippi. Warren County Courthouse. Deed Records.