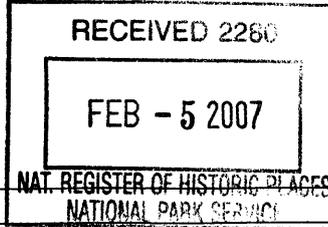


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Turkey Creek Community Historic District  
other names/site number:

**2. Location**

street & number: Rippy Road and environs not for publication NA\_\_\_  
city or town: Gulfport vicinity NA\_\_\_  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: 047 Harrison code: 101 zip code: 39503

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_X\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kimberly H. Paul JAN. 31, 2007  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson K. Beall 3-21-07  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:** Private; Public-local

**Number of Resources within Property:**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:** District

Contributing	Noncontributing	
59	14	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
60	14	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register** None

1

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:** Domestic/single dwelling;  
Education/school;  
Religion/religious facility

**Current Functions:** Domestic/single dwelling;  
Education/school;  
Religion/religious facility

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):** Bungalow/Craftsman;  
Other: shotgun  
Modern Movement: Ranch

**Materials:**

foundation: brick, stone, concrete  
roof: tin, asphalt shingles  
walls: wood, brick, concrete  
other

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

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Turkey Creek Community Historic District  
Harrison County, Mississippi

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The center of the Turkey Creek Community Historic District, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi is located at the intersection of Rippy Road and Creosote Road. Creosote Road runs through a mixed-use commercial and light industrial-use zone at the northern edge of Gulfport near Interstate 10. The Turkey Creek Community Historic District is bounded by the Cavenham Forest Industries plant, the remains of the now closed Gulf Coast Creosote Company, the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport, and Turkey Creek. The sense of place in the Turkey Creek Community Historic District is immediately apparent. Rippy Road, which runs east and west, constitutes the spine of the district. Regularly-spaced, one-story cottages, located close to the road originally sat on long narrow lots that extended from Rippy Road to Turkey Creek. A number of these lots subsequently have been developed to include additional free-standing residences and outbuildings. Short dead-end lanes branch off Rippy Road for the length of the district.

The district is a residential area primarily located along a 400 yard stretch of Rippy Road. The area is flat and historically associated with freshwater marsh and coastal hardwood forest. The primary natural feature of the district is Turkey Creek, which runs about 12.9 miles emptying into Bayou Bernard. Many of the lots in the Turkey Creek Community Historic District adjoin Turkey Creek, which originally served as a transportation route for early settlers.

The residential nature of the district contrasts with the land-use patterns in the adjacent areas. The property to the north is primarily used for light industrial uses, while a commercial strip along U.S. Highway 49 is close to the western edge of the district. The Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport is located south of the district. These uses have threatened the residential nature of the district, either directly by expansion, or indirectly by noise and increased traffic on Rippy Road, the central corridor of the district.

While no style of architecture predominates, there is a core of bungalows built from the 1920s to the 1940s. Many of these were built by a local resident and descendant of original settlers, Tom White. White employed Craftsman details such as decorative rafter tails and "oriental" knee braces. Examples of houses probably built by White are found at 14190 Rippy Road and 14411 Rippy Road. It is common to see houses which have been modified over the years as the needs of the owners changed. The house at 14384 Rippy Road is illustrative, originally a bungalow with a full-width porch, half of which has been enclosed. Vernacular houses comprise the largest number of structures. Some are the familiar shotgun houses, including the houses at 14332 Rippy Road and 14347 Rippy Road. The Benton House (NR, 2002), built c. 1870 and located at 14115 Rippy Road, is the oldest house in the district.

Almost all of the contributing buildings are residences. Notable exceptions are the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, built c.1950 and located at 14255A Rippy Road, and the Turkey Creek Consolidated School buildings, c. 1948/1950, located at 14175 Rippy Road. Both institutions have deep roots in the community and have served to unify the community and distinguish it from other areas in Gulfport. The school playground and a ball field adjacent to the church provide recreational space.

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Turkey Creek Community Historic District  
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Roads in the Turkey Creek Historic District consist of the paved two-lane Rippy Road, which constitutes the spine of the district and intersects with Creosote Road. Two-lane dead end roads branch off Rippy Road, including Hines Road, Jeff Road, White Road, and Halsell Road.

The early settlers bought long and narrow lots, many of which reach Turkey Creek. Over the years, rather than subdivide these lots, the owners built additional houses on the lots. It is common for houses to sit close to Rippy Road, and have adjacent houses built behind on the same lot. There may be as many as three houses on a lot.

Abundant plant life, both cultivated and natural, is a defining feature of the Turkey Creek Community Historic District. The earliest settlers practiced farming and, even as industrial work became more available, most families had gardens, which provided vegetables for home use as well as for sale. Native plants, such as oak trees, prospered, and many older residents recall a canopy of green shading Rippy Road.

**Inventory of Resources**

C = Contributing element; NC = Non-contributing element ; PL = Previously listed

The inventory is arranged alphabetically by street name in ascending numerical order. Buildings are classified as "contributing" (C) or "non-contributing" (NC) to the historic character of the district.

Creosote Road

1. **NC 9409 Creosote Road c.1993 Ranch**  
One-story brick house with hipped roof with broad eaves. Near full width porch supported by decorative metal posts.
2. **C 9437 Creosote Road c. 1950**  
One-story frame house with gable roof. Vinyl siding and asphalt shingles. Three-quarter width enclosed front porch with intersecting gable roof.
3. **C 9439 Creosote Road c.1920**  
One-story frame house with gable roof. Vertical board exterior siding and metal roof. Centered half-width front porch with gable roof. Two doors flanked by windows. Left window under aluminum awning. Window and door on left side of house. Freestanding frame shed with plywood siding in yard.

Halsell Street

4. **C 9379 Halsell Street c.1955**  
A one-story, front-gabled frame house with Masonite siding. Overhanging eaves, screened porch with brick corner pedestals missing columns. 2/2 metal frame windows.

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5. **NC 9389 Halsell Street c.1970**  
A one-story frame house with a side-gabled roof. Brick and aluminum siding. Carport on front with intersecting gable roof.
6. **C 9415 Halsell Street c.1940s Ranch**  
A one story L-shaped ranch house with asphalt shingle shallow gable-on-hip roof with slightly overhanging eaves. 6/6 double hung metal windows on all elevations fronting the street. Vinyl siding.

Hines Lane

7. **C 9428A Hines Lane c.1925**  
One-story brick house with shallow gable roof. Gable faces street with front door flanked by metal double sash windows, one 6/6 and one 2/2. Slightly overhanging eaves. Wing to the rear with shed roof.
8. **C 9428B Hines Lane c.1940s**  
One-story frame house with side-gable roof. Clapboard siding. Metal awning on right end of main facade.
9. **NC 9431 Hines Lane c. 1960s**  
One-story house with side gable roof with shallow overhanging eaves. Vinyl siding over concrete block walls. Carport.

Jeff Road

10. **C 9448A Jeff Road c.1940s**  
One-story frame house with vertical wood siding. Front gable roof with asphalt shingles. Gable faces the street with a recessed right corner porch on a concrete block foundation. One window on elevation facing the street with door and one window under the corner porch. Five windows, covered with plywood, along the right side. Round slatted vent in gable peak.
11. **C 9448B Jeff Road c.1940s**  
One-story frame house with plywood siding. Asphalt shingled gable roof with overhanging eaves.
12. **C 9454 Jeff Road c.1925 Shotgun**  
One-story frame gabled shotgun house with drop siding and boarded windows. Enclosed raised porch on brick piers with battered posts and decorative front knee braces. Casement windows in gable end. Addition to right rear behind a carport all covered by a shed roof.
13. **C 9456 Jeff Road c. 1930 Bungalow**  
One story frame bungalow with front- gable roof. Half porch enclosed. Replacement windows and vinyl siding.

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14. **C 9463 Jeff Road c.1940s**  
One-story frame house with a shallow gable roof. The house is clad in wide clapboards and rests on concrete block piers. Front projecting gable-roofed porch to the left faces the street. The porch roof is supported with boxed posts and has a simple rail. Door under porch with a single 1/1 to the left. Paired 2/2 horizontal muntin window on front wall. Right side wall has three windows, a single, a paired set and a smaller window to the rear. Triangular slatted vents in gable peaks.

Rippy Road

15. **PL 14115 Rippy Road c.1870**  
One-story frame house with metal hipped roof. Center chimney. Full length front porch supported by four chamfered columns resting on brick piers. Decorative brackets on columns under a moderately wide frieze. Enframed paired windows flank door. Plywood siding with ship lap.
16. **C 14123 Rippy Road c.1930s**  
One-story frame house with shallow front gabled roof and moderately wide boxed eaves. Three-quarter width screened porch with gable roof. 1/1 double hung windows. Vinyl siding and corrugated metal roof.
17. **C 14123A Rippy Road c.1930**  
Freestanding one-story plywood sided garage with gable roof.
18. **C 14124 Rippy Road c.1950s**  
One-story frame house on concrete block piers with asphalt shingled gable roof. Front door off centered with three-section picture window to left and paired 2/2 double hung sash window to right. Exposed eaves.
19. **NC 14132 Rippy Road c.1980s Split-level ranch**  
Split-level brick ranch with one-story wing with dual-pitched gable roof. Projecting entry with paired 6/6 window pavilion. Two story wing on right is set back and has a prominent exterior chimney flanked by 6/6 double hung windows on each floor. Brick exterior.
20. **C 14133 Rippy Road c.1950s**  
One-story front-gabled house. Main four bay façade has door offset to the right. Two 2/2 windows to left and one 2/2 window to the right. Four 2/2 windows on side of house. Brick exterior.
21. **C 14141 Rippy Road c.1920s Bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow with Craftsman details. Front-gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. Partial-width recessed porch supported by two battered columns resting on brick piers with concrete caps. Door offset to right with paired 6/6 sash window to left and single 6/6 sash to right. Novelty siding. Rectangular window in gable peak.

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22. C 14153 Rippy Road c.1940s Shotgun  
One -story frame house with gable roof. Front-gabled with right recessed screened porch Paired double hung windows on front wall. Rectangular slatted vent gable peak.
23. C 14154 Rippy Road c.1920s  
One-story frame house on concrete block foundation with shallow gable roof. Front-gabled with wood stoop. Clad in O-G novelty siding. Paired 2/2 metal windows flank door. Three-quarter length side porch.
24. C 14164 Rippy Road c.1950  
One-story frame house with side-gabled roof. Clad in asbestos shingles. Center door with staggered lights under intersecting gable canopy, posts missing. Flanked by replacement vinyl windows. Sits on brick pier foundation.
25. C 14175A Rippy Road c.1948  
Turkey Creek School. One-story rectangular brick school building with a flat roof. Strip windows with composite bulkheads.
26. C 14175B Rippy Road c.1955  
Turkey Creek School. One-story irregularly shaped brick school building with flat roof.
- 27A. C 14175C Rippy Road  
Turkey Creek Park. A public park owned and operated by the City of Gulfport with playground equipment, a baseball field, picnic pavilion and community center. Traditionally served the community as a recreation area.
- 27B. NC 14175C Rippy Road c.1980s  
One-story steel frame pavilion with steel doors and concrete slab foundation. Located in Turkey Creek Park.
- 27C. NC 14175C Rippy Road c.1990  
Community center. One-story frame building with sheet metal roof. Located in Turkey Creek Park.
28. C 14180A Rippy Road c.1930s  
One-story frame house on concrete block piers with gable-on-hip roof. Clapboard siding. Full-width front porch, undercut on square stuccoed posts, door offset to left, paired 2/2 windows to right and single 1/1 window to the left. Concrete steps.
29. C 14180B Rippy Road c.1950s  
One-story frame house with small screened corner porch. Four-pane and six-pane casement windows.
30. C 14190 Rippy Road c.1935 Bungalow  
One-story frame bungalow on concrete block piers with shallow gable roof. Moderate overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. Three-quarter width gabled porch with wood posts resting on brick piers with

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concrete caps. Jigsaw knee braces. Six-pane casement window. Latticed vent in gable peak. Six-panel replacement door. 6/6 sash windows.

31. **C 14255A Rippy Road c.1950s**  
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church is an L-shaped one story structure. The sanctuary has a steep gable roof with a two-tiered belfry with a steep pyramidal roof capped with a weather vane. Concrete block construction with brick quoins at corners and around door and a brick water table. Front gable with circular vent at apex. Centered double glass doors with transom over a concrete stoop with steps and handicapped ramp all covered by flat-roof metal porch. Doorway is framed by brick quoins. On the right side of the building two windows with brick sills and lintels flank a shallow projecting buttress. Side wing with intersecting gable roof is also constructed of block with brick quoining and watercourse. Door with small shed roof and window with brick sill and lintel flank a shallow projecting buttress
32. **NC 14255B Rippy Road c.2004**  
One story metal frame and clad annex with gable roof constructed in 2004 is a non-contributing structure.
33. **C 14269 Rippy Road c. 1950s**  
One-story T-shape frame house on concrete block foundation with shallow gable roof. Vinyl siding. Small projecting entry with intersecting gable roof. Door offset to left. There are three sets of paired 6/6 windows to the left of the entry and one set of paired windows to the right on the street side. There is a three-section picture window and paired double hung windows on right side of house. Rear ell has intersecting gable roof.
34. **C 14279 Rippy Road c.1920s Shotgun**  
One-story frame shotgun with intersecting wing. Shotgun has gable-on-hip roof with recessed porch that covers a full width concrete stoop with door and window. Intersecting ell has gable roof, two bays with 4/4 windows. Cementitious shingles and metal roof.
35. **C 14289 Rippy Road c.1915 Vernacular Queen Anne**  
One-story frame gable and wing with concrete block pier foundations. Three-section cutaway gabled bay on right end. Round, slatted vent in gable peak. Porch on wing front with shed roof supported by boxed posts with simple rail. Interior brick chimney.
36. **NC 14317 Rippy Road c.1950s**  
One-story metal sided building with front gable roof.
37. **C 14325 Rippy Road c.1940 Bungalow**  
One-story brick bungalow with full width screened porch. Exposed rafters. Rectangular slatted vent in gable peak. 2/2 paired double hung metal windows.

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38. C 14327 Rippy Road c.1945  
One-story frame house on concrete pier foundation with front gable roof with boxed eaves. Full width screened porch with gable roof. Small window in gable peak of main house. Slightly projecting wing on right with intersecting gable roof.
39. C 14332 Rippy Road c.1900 Shotgun  
One-story frame shotgun house with porch offset to the left with independent gable roof supported by boxed posts. Front door flanked by windows. Metal roof. 6/6 wood frame double hung windows.
40. C 14334 Rippy Road c.1900  
One story frame house with front gabled roof supported by two posts with half-round ornamental filigree. Door flanked by single 1/1 double hung window to the left and paired double hung window to the right. Door on right side of house flanked by paired double hung window and single double hung window.
41. C 14336 Rippy Road c.1940 Bungalow  
One-story frame house with Craftsman details clad in drop siding. Exposed rafters. 6/6 double hung sash metal windows. Partial width porch with gabled roof supported by ornamental metal posts.
42. C 14339 Rippy Road c.1950  
One-story frame house on brick piers with side gabled roof. Entrance with intersecting gablet over six-panel wood door. 2/2 metal double hung window to left, 2/2 paired metal double hung window to right. Rear ell with intersecting gable roof.
43. C 14347 Rippy Road c.1925 Shotgun  
One-story frame shotgun house on brick piers. 2/2 metal double hung windows. Full-width screened porch with shed roof. Wood door with diamond-pane glazing. Rectangular slatted vent in gable peak.
44. C 14353 Rippy Road c.1940s Bungalow  
One-story frame house on wood-post piers. Front gabled roof with exposed rafter tails. Half-width front porch supported by triple boxed post on brick pier. Single double hung window and door on porch. Right half of porch enclosed with paired 6/6 double hung metal windows. Paired double hung window and single double hung window on right side of house. Slightly indented rear ell.
45. C 14357 Rippy Road c.1930  
One-story frame house on concrete block piers with front gable roof. Clad in asbestos shingles. Shed roofed wing to right flush with gabled wing. Paired 3/1 double hung windows on gable side and single window on front of shed wing. Glazed and paneled door on left side of house with 1/2 sidelights.
46. C 14363 Rippy Road c.1950s  
Two-story concrete block building covered in stucco. Shallow gable roof. Door centered on first floor with triple jalousie windows to left. Metal stair rises from right to landing with door centered on the second

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floor. Door is flanked by paired 6/6 windows. Two sets of paired windows on right side of second story. Carport with shed roof supported by brick wall on right side of first story.

47. **C 14365 Rippy Road c.1920s Modified bungalow**  
One story frame bungalow on brick piers. One-half width undercut front porch to left supported by battered post on brick pier with concrete cap. Right side enclosed with paired window. Shed roof wing on right side with paired windows and door. Boxed eaves.
48. **C 14370 Rippy Road c.1920s Modified bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow on brick piers sided with clapboards. Front gabled roof with boxed eaves. Front porch enclosed. Double doors with four-section horizontal lights at top. Flanked by paired 6/6 double hung windows. Rectangular vent in gable peak.
49. **C 14374 Rippy Road c.1940**  
One-story frame house on concrete foundation with shallow front gabled roof. Vinyl siding. Shingled roof. Front door off centered to right flanked by projecting three-sided bays all covered by pent hipped roof. Rectangular vent in gable peak.
50. **C 14384 Rippy Road c.1925 Modified bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow with Craftsman details. 4/4 wood double hung sash windows and one light three-panel wood door. Half-width screened porch supported by battered post on brick pier with concrete cap. Left side of porch enclosed with paired windows. Lattice gable vent. Gable roof with exposed rafters and jigsaw knee braces.
51. **C 14398 Rippy Road c.1950s**  
One-story brick house with shingled gable roof. Slightly projecting pavilion with triple window offset to the right. Recessed entry porch supported by ornamental metal iron post. Two sets of paired windows to left covered with aluminum awnings. Central interior brick chimney. Carport to the right supported by ornamental metal posts.
52. **NC 14401 Rippy Road c.1975**  
One-story brick house with hip roof and moderately overhanging eaves. Six bays wide and five bays deep. Concrete patio on right.
53. **C 14403 Rippy Road c.1930s**  
One-story frame house with front-gabled roof and wing with shed roof. Center door in gabled wing with paired double hung windows to the right and single double-hung window to the left.
54. **C 14406 Rippy Road c.1920s Bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow with Craftsman details. Clapboard siding and shingled front gabled roof with boxed eaves. Three-quarter front porch supported by triple posts on brick piers with concrete caps. Front door with multiple lights under glass transom. Large divided pane window with semi-elliptical transom. Lattice vents in apex of gable peaks with small window with divided lights in porch gable peak. Exposed jigsaw knee braces.

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55. **C 14407 Rippy Road c. 1940**  
One story frame house with Craftsman details. Concrete pier foundation and shallow gable roof with boxed eaves. Three-quarter width enclosed front porch with gable roof. Front door with three-panel faux sidelights and transom flanked by paired 2/2 windows with horizontal muntins. Other windows are 3/1 wood frame double hung windows. Rectangular slatted vent in porch gable peak.
56. **C 14411 Rippy Road c. 1930s Bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow with front gable roof supported by knee brackets. Full-width front porch supported by battered columns resting on brick piers. Two doors flank two windows on the front porch, suggesting the building may be a duplex.
57. **C 14413 Rippy Road c. 1930s**  
One-story frame house with front gabled roof. Replacement door under gabled canopy flanked by metal replacement windows. Covered by wood clapboards.
58. **NC 14418 Rippy Road c.1980 Ranch**  
One-story brick ranch with gable roof. Center recessed door with sidelights. Metal double hung sash windows.
59. **NC 14423 Rippy Road c.1990 Ranch**  
One-story brick ranch with gable roof. Recessed three bay porch with stone veneer. One bay garage.
60. **NC 14430 Rippy Road c.1960**  
One-story concrete block house with stucco exterior. Gable roof. Three-quarter width screened porch with gable roof. 2/2 metal double hung sash windows.
61. **C 14439 Rippy Road c.1935 Bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow with Craftsman details on concrete piers. 3/1 wood double hung windows. Exposed rafter tails. Full width porch with offset gable roof supported by brick piers has jalousie windows. Porte-cochere extends to right of house with battered column on brick pier with concrete cap. Gable fronts have three pane windows in gable peaks. Boxed eaves with jigsawed knee brackets.
62. **C 14446 Rippy Road c.1930s**  
One-story frame bungalow with gable roof. 3/1 wood frame double hung sash windows. Vinyl siding. Right front corner porch enclosed with jalousie windows and door with jalousie vents. Paired windows to left. Octagonal slatted vent in gable peak. Left side wing with shed roof, door and window.

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Harrison County, Mississippi

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63. **C 14447A Rippy Road c.1940s**  
One-story frame house on concrete block and brick foundation. Hipped roof with boxed eaves. Vinyl siding. Slightly projecting center pavilion with center door capped by gablet roof. Door flanked by paired windows. Paired windows on wall to left of projecting pavilion and screened porch to right on front corner.
64. **C 14447B Rippy Road c.1920s Bungalow**  
One-story frame bungalow with clapboard siding. Central interior chimney. Full-width porch supported by paired columns on brick piers with concrete caps. Two doors on porch flanked by 4/4 wood frame double hung windows. Other windows are 4/4 wood frame double hung. Square window in gable peak.
65. **NC 14458 Rippy Road c.1970s Ranch**  
One-story cinder block ranch house with side gable roof. Door offset to right with triple window to the right. Two single double hung windows to left. Carport on right.
66. **C 14461 Rippy Road c.1950s**  
One-story frame house with front gable roof with boxed eaves. Vinyl siding. Near full width porch with gable roof supported by decorative metal posts resting on brick piers with concrete caps. Door offset slightly to left with single double hung window to left and paired double hung windows to the right. Carport with shed roof on front right corner of house.
67. **C 14469 Rippy Road c.1930s American four-square**  
Two-story frame house with shallow hipped roof with broad boxed eaves. Vinyl siding. Full-width porch with rail and turned balusters under shed roof supported by five 4x4 columns. Front door slightly offset to left. Paired double hung windows to left and slightly bayed triple window to the right. Two 6/6 double hung windows on second story. Small wing with shed roof on right set back from façade with one 6/6 double hung window.
68. **C 14480 Rippy Road c. 1950**  
One-story concrete block house with metal gable roof. 2/2 metal frame double hung windows and jalousie windows. Full width screened porch with gable roof. Four light window in porch gable peak. Attached carport with shed roof to right of house.
69. **C 14507A Rippy Road c.1950 Bungalow**  
One-story frame house with front gable roof. Drop siding. Apparently had a two-bay gabled porch, but it has been removed and brick pedestal remains. Full-width concrete porch.
70. **NC 14507B Rippy Road c.1960s**  
One-story concrete block building with gable roof. Door centered on front with no windows. Two small windows under the eaves on right side of building.

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71. **C 14507C Rippy Road c.1950**

One-story frame house with gable roof. Stucco and brick finish. Full-width porch supported by brick piers. Two doors and two windows on porch. Two sets of paired windows with semi-circular fan lights on right side of house.

White Street

72. **C 9426 White Street c.1950**

One-story frame house with gable roof. Screened porch. 2/2 windows.

73. **C 9338 White Street c.1950**

One-story frame house with dual pitched gable roof. Vinyl siding and metal roof. Full-width screened porch with right side entry. Door off center to the right with window to the left. 2/2 metal windows on right side

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- X     **A**     Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B**     Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C**     Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D**     Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**  
Ethnic Heritage/Black;  
Social History**Period of Significance:**  
c.1870-1956**Significant Dates**  
N/A**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A**     owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B**     removed from its original location.
- C**     a birthplace or a grave.
- D**     a cemetery.
- E**     a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F**     a commemorative property.
- G**     less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)**  
N/A**Cultural Affiliation(s)**  
N/A**Architect/Builder**  
White, Tom**Narrative Statement of Significance:**            See continuation sheets.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**                    See continuation sheet.**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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:

Turkey Creek Community Homeowners  
Association

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Turkey Creek Community Historic District  
Harrison County, Mississippi

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### SUMMARY

The Turkey Creek Community Historic District, located in the north part of Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi, represents a surviving example of a local community established by newly emancipated African Americans during the Reconstruction Era. Unlike many other such communities, the Turkey Creek Community largely retains its historic geographic boundaries, residential nature, architectural heritage and sense of community. The Turkey Creek Community Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for significance under Criteria A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/Black and Social History. The period of significance is from 1870, the date of construction of the Benton House (NR, 2002), the oldest known building in the district, to 1956. The buildings in the district are predominately vernacular, and many have been modified over the years. This is a feature that contributes to the unique culture and is a characteristic-defining element in the significance of the district.

### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TURKEY CREEK COMMUNITY

The African American community in Turkey Creek developed on formerly uninhabited and undeveloped swamplands surrounding Turkey Creek. The area consists of wetlands (bottomland, coastal lowland maritime forests, freshwater marsh, scrub shrub and flood plains) featuring a diverse array of trees and plants, and wild and marine life.

An 1850 Act of Congress enabled the 1858 transfer of Section 22 (Range 11 West in Township 7 South) from the United States Department of the Interior to the State of Mississippi. In 1866, a group of newly emancipated African Americans settled 320 acres of land purchased from parcels owned by the Arkansas Lumber Company, and constructed homes near Turkey Creek, so named because of the wild turkeys which lived in the vicinity.

The establishment of the Turkey Creek Community in 1866 coincided with the Reconstruction Era in Mississippi (1865-77). During this time, the Thirteenth Amendment (1865) outlawed slavery; the Fourteenth Amendment (1866) granted former slaves US citizenship and equal protection under the law; and the Fifteenth Amendment (1868) granted voting rights to blacks.

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Early settlers and residents in Turkey Creek, such as Joshua and Jefferson White (b. 1846), may have lived in temporary brush tents which were gradually replaced by log cabins. Mr. White courted and later married Black-foot Indian and Slidell, LA, resident Fannie. Other White family settlers in Turkey Creek included David White, Marshall White (husband of Black-foot Indian/Cajun Lillian White; grandfather of Reverend Jackson), Marshall White (husband of Lilly Gifford White), Louis (d. 1935) and Edgar White (d. 1888), and Mary White. Thomas and Melinda Benton were also among the earliest settlers. Freed slaves from "up North," the Bentons came to Harrison County in search of a place to set up a home for their family. Though records do not indicate where the funds came from, Mrs. Benton was able to purchase enough land that her holdings comprised 50% of the Turkey Creek Community. Many later settlers purchased their property from Mrs. Benton. She also donated property for a church and school. Other early settlers and residents included the Adams (Clyde), Flowers (Bertha), Griswold (Emma), Harrison, Hines (Dozier Sr.), Jackson (David), Roach and Simms families. A number of the current inhabitants of Turkey Creek are descendants of earlier residents, many of whom passed land holdings on from one generation to the next, contributing to the distinct identity the Turkey Creek Community retains.

The Turkey Creek Community was only one of many settlements founded by former slaves as they created a new life for themselves. These communities offered an opportunity for self-government that was denied to them in the wider political arena. The Turkey Creek Community was able to thrive during the Jim Crow era due to a number of factors including its relative isolation and autonomy, the land wealth of its residents and the relatively steady employment offered by the plants on Creosote Road. Although annexed by the City of Gulfport in 1994, the Turkey Creek Community was established before the founding of Gulfport.

#### ARCHITECTURAL OVERVIEW

Regularly-spaced, one-story cottages, located close to the road originally sat on narrow, long lots that extended from Rippy Road to Turkey Creek and typify the community's vernacular architecture. A number of these lots have subsequently been developed to include additional free-standing residences and outbuildings. Residents used to tend private gardens and raise livestock, including cattle, pigs, and chickens, on the long narrow lots extending back to the creek.

Like much of the Turkey Creek Community's history, the construction history is based on oral tradition. However, some facts may be verified from examinations of local Tax Assessor and Plat maps. According

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to local tradition, residents trained in construction played a large part in the building the homes in the community. Reverend Calvin Jackson states that his uncle, Tom White, served for three years with the Civilian Conservation Corps at a camp in Mt. Olive, Mississippi, and was later employed locally as a residential carpenter and home builder. Mr. White was responsible for a number of homes, both in Turkey Creek, North Gulfport, Magnolia Grove, and Handsboro, dating from the 1920s through the 1940s. According to architectural historian Ruth Little, defining features of homes built by Tom White include front gables and front gable porches, decorative rafter tails, "Oriental" style front gable knee braces, triangular lattice vents, Craftsman-style brick porch piers with battered posts, and front gable raking cornices that extend out at a rakish angle at the ends. Siding is universally a German-style (dropped). Reverend Jackson speculates that Tom White may have drawn the plans for the buildings he constructed. Following his WWII military service, Reverend Jackson studied carpentry at Tuskegee University in order to educate himself in a practical trade, after which he assisted his uncle Tom White in building homes in Turkey Creek.

In addition to the Craftsman bungalows, several shotgun style homes exist which may date from the 1920s to the 1940s. These are typically located on the lanes which branch off Rippy Road.

#### EMPLOYMENT

In 1906, former resident and land owner Melinda Benton sold 12 acres of land on Bayou Bernard to the Gulf Coast Creosote Company for the establishment of a creosote plant, which was in operation between 1906 and 1987. According to the recollections of Dozier Hines Jr., Melinda Benton stipulated that the plant hire local men from the Turkey Creek Community, one of whom was Dozier Hines Sr., who arrived in Turkey Creek from Alabama in 1904.

Creosote is used to create a variety of products: wood creosote, coal tar creosote, coal tar, coal tar pitch, and coal tar pitch volatiles. These products are mixtures of many chemicals such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phenol, and cresols, created by high temperature treatment of beech and other woods, coal, and from the resin of the creosote bush. The plant became the locus of sorting, shaving, trimming and treating long-leaf pine which was subsequently used for the construction of railroad ties and utility poles that would in turn be distributed locally, regionally, and nationally. Creosote, which is carcinogenic to humans, was used as a preservative treatment to retard rotting.

According to Reverend Jackson, wages for plant workers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century ranged between 25 and 45 cents a week. Laborers in the plant were subject to a variety of health problems due to creosote

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exposure. Turkey Creek residents, living in close proximity to the creosote plant, may also have suffered adverse health effects due to possible contamination of the local drinking water.

Local resident and historian Derrick Evans argues that the contributions of the plant's output towards railroad expansion, Depression-era electrification of communities throughout the United States, World War II supplies, and post-war construction efforts, have rendered the plant integrally relevant to local, state, and national history.

While some men within the community worked at the local creosote plant, others sought work in plants in Hattiesburg. Other men worked at the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi and a naval support center in Gulfport. Some women from the Turkey Creek Community were engaged as domestics at such noted residences as Grass Lawn in Gulfport and Beauvoir in Biloxi. Other women, such as Kizziah Evans, took in laundry brought on horse-drawn wagons, from the hotels and homes in Gulfport. The laundering and pressing of the clothing was performed in wash-houses built to the rear of individual homes. Other Turkey Creek residents supplemented their regular incomes with additional jobs, such as Mr. Hines Sr.'s burning of coal to heat the irons used in pressing clothes.

Local resident Peggy White operated a cane mill at her home, where the sorghum syrup or syrup was produced from sugar cane. Without electric power, such a cane mill may have been powered by horses or mules on a 'sweep.' The cane mill may have also produced sugar candy.

#### EDUCATION

The local school has long been a defining feature of the Turkey Creek Community. In the early years, no public education was available to residents. Education was provided at the Mt. Pleasant church. A two-room public school was built c.1928, and served as the only African American school in Harrison County. The current Turkey Creek School, built in 1948, is at least the third school on the site, replacing a Depression-era building.

As the community continued to grow, the community recognized a need to expand the school's educational curriculum as well as its physical plant. Reverend Jackson recalls speaking with Esco Smith, the local School Superintendent, about his concerns that the Turkey Creek School curriculum did not provide high-school level mathematics instruction, which hindered children in the community when they attended college.

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Requests for additional classes and a new school were directed to the Superintendent of Schools, who instructed the community to provide the necessary funding. Fundraising efforts began during the Depression era, when local resident Artemise Tuggle, the daughter of Jefferson White, began to host fish-fries and ice-cream picnics on the grounds of the Methodist Church. Eventually, \$4,000 was raised, and these funds were delivered to the School Superintendent's office and a new school was constructed soon thereafter.

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Recreational activities included baseball games at the ball diamond behind the school. Baseball legends from both the National Baseball League and the Negro National League visited Turkey Creek and played on this baseball diamond. Legendary Cleveland Indians catcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige and Hall of Fame member Josh Gibson (1911-1947; Homestead Grays; Pittsburgh Crawfords) came to Turkey Creek to play baseball as part of the fish fry/barbecue fundraisers organized by Artemise Tuggle. In 1937, Grays' manager and co-owner Cum Posey wrote that Gibson was "the best ballplayer, white or colored, that we have seen in all our years of following baseball." Joe DiMaggio described Satchel Paige as "the best and fastest pitcher I've ever faced."

Prior to the end of racial segregation, when Turkey Creek residents were banned from the beaches of the Gulf Coast, locals contented themselves with bathing and swimming in the refreshing waters of the creek. According to the Reverend Calvin Johnson, Turkey Creek would also attract nearby residents of Soria City and North Gulfport.

**CONCLUSION**

Despite repeated threats from outside development, highway construction and airport expansion, the residents of the Turkey Creek Community Historic District have persevered in maintaining the distinct cultural nature of the community. The cohesiveness of the community rests on the pillars of family, religion, education and a common heritage dating back to the earliest settlers who came to the Turkey Creek area seeking land ownership and the possibility of creating a community for themselves and their descendants. The extent to which that has been accomplished was recognized by the Mississippi Heritage Trust in 2001 when Turkey Creek was named one of Mississippi's Ten Most Endangered Historic Places.

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**REFERENCES**

Butler, Lael. US Environmental Protection Agency. Statement of Basis/Final Decision and Response to Comments Summary, Region IV, ID 6961, MSD 057 226 961. Cavenham Forest Industries Inc., Gulfport, Mississippi (unsigned).

Evans, Derrick. "The History of Turkey Creek and its Importance to our Local, State and National Heritage." <http://tccinews.blogspot.com/2005/10/brief-history-of-turkey-creek.html>

Little, Ruth. Field Notes, November 2005. On file at Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Ramseur, Cynthia and Jim Kelly. Watershed Implementation Plan: Turkey Creek Watershed, Gulfport and Harrison County, MS. April 2006.

Ray, Janisse. "Stopping Developers with an African Drumbeat." Sierra Club Delta Defender. May/June 2004. <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200405/profile.asp>

**INTERVIEWS**

Dozier Hines, Jr. interviewed by Ruth Little, November 2005.

Reverend Calvin Jackson interviewed by Meisha Hunter, May 2006.

Martha Snelling interviewed by Ruth Little, November 2005.

**WEBSITE REFERENCES**

City of Gulfport [http://www.ci.gulfport.ms.us/historical\\_events.htm#](http://www.ci.gulfport.ms.us/historical_events.htm#)

Civilian Conservation Corps <http://www.cccalumni.org/>

Harrison County, Mississippi <http://www.co.harrison.ms.us/>

Josh Gibson [http://www.baseballlibrary.com/baseballlibrary/ballplayers/G/Gibson\\_Josh.stm](http://www.baseballlibrary.com/baseballlibrary/ballplayers/G/Gibson_Josh.stm)

Mississippi Heritage Trust <http://www.mississippiheritage.com/>

Leroy "Satchel" Paige <http://www.satchelpaige.com/bio2.html>

Tuskegee University <http://www.tuskegee.edu/>

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: 110

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	16	299720	3567640	C	16	301200	3567020
B	16	301200	3567640	D	16	299720	3567020

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: William M. Gatlin

organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

date: January 18, 2007

street & number: P.O. Box 501

telephone: 601-576-6951

city or town: Jackson

state: MS

zip code: 39201

Statement of Significance authored by Meisha Hunter, New York Landmarks Preservation Commission

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Property Owner(s)**

---

name:

street & number:

telephone:

city or town:

state:

zip code:

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the

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National Park Service

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Turkey Creek Community Historic District is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Turkey Creek Community Historic District."

### Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to enclose a discrete area of residences and buildings historically associated with the Turkey Creek Community. The boundaries encompass those portions of the Turkey Creek Community that contain a predominance of buildings built during the period of significance. Areas with intensive construction after 1956 have been excluded. The district encompasses the intact historic properties along Rippy Road, Creosote Road, Halsell Street, Hines Lane, Jeff Road and White Street that illustrate the patterns of settlement, land tenure, and construction of homes contributing to the discrete culture supporting the designation of a district. On the east and southeast, Turkey Creek forms a natural barrier that helps define the character of the district. The southern boundary is contiguous with the boundaries of properties that front Rippy Road and illustrate the long, thin plots that historically constituted the predominate shape of plots owned by residents. The northern boundary is largely defined by the boundary with the creosote plant, which played a defining role in the economics of the district, as well as illustrating the relative isolation of this residential community in contrast to the land use patterns of surrounding areas.







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Photograph 12

- a. Turkey Creek Park  
Turkey Creek Community Historic District
- b. Harrison County, MS
- c. Jennifer V.O. Baughn
- d. January 10, 2007
- e. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS
- f. Facing east