

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Tompkins, Chris House

Other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

Street & number 144 South Oak Drive

not for publication

City or town Burdette

vicinity

state Arkansas

Code AR

county Mississippi County

Code 093

zip code 72321

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathy Maddox  
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/05/01  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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 certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Tompkins House

Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

Circa 1903-1951

Significant Dates

1903, 1922

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Three States Lumber Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

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### SUMMARY

Located at 144 South Oak Drive in the Mississippi County town of Burdette, the Chris Tompkins House is a one-story simplified Bungalow style residence. The house was built circa 1903 along with several other similar houses for use as a residence for mid-level managers of the Three States Lumber Company. The close proximity to the timber mill and the fact the lumber company owned the house accounts for the quality of the materials used on the residence. Originally there was an entire street composed of similar houses. The Chris Tompkins House is the better of the two remaining homes.

The house sits atop a foundation of concrete piers and is topped with a composition shingle hipped roof with a broad overhang and a front facing ventilated dormer. The exterior of the home is clad in original cypress weatherboard siding. The house retains four-over-four windows on the original part of the house and most of the original glass is still intact. The home was originally rectangular in plan with screened in porches on both the front and rear elevations. In 1938 a carport was added to the north side elevation and the rear porch enclosed as a bedroom. The screen was also removed from the front porch and replaced with wrought iron post and handrails prior to World War II. A small dining area addition was added sometime in the 1940s. Original hardwood floors and several original doors remain in the interior. Original wood shingles are still visible from inside the attic and a brick chimney is concealed between the walls of the kitchen and the dining area. Other historic materials in the house include some knob and tube electrical wiring.

### ELABORATION

Located in the Mississippi County town of Burdette, the Chris Tompkins House is a modest one-story Bungalow residence. The house was built in 1903 along with several other comparable houses for use as a residence for saw mill managers and supervisors of the Three States Lumber Company. This is the best remaining example of a company house. The house is sheathed in cypress weatherboard and topped by a hipped roof covered in composition shingles. The roof has a broad eave overhang that extends forward from the house to provide covering for the front porch. The home was originally rectangular in form with screened in porches on both the front and rear elevations. The rear porch was enclosed in 1938 and the screen was removed from the front porch and replaced with wrought iron post and handrails prior to World War II. A small dining area addition was added sometime in the 1940s. Original features remaining on the inside of the home include hardwood floors, doors, and even some elements of the original electrical system.

### West Elevation

The façade of the house fronts west toward South Oak Drive. The elevation features a four-over-four window on each side of the off-center front entrance. The roof extends out from the house, and forms the ceiling of the full front porch. The porch was originally screened in, but sometime prior to World War II the screen, and original posts were removed and wrought iron post and handrails added. The sole dormer on the house is

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centrally located on the roof above the porch and contains a louvered vent. From the front porch of the house you can look directly across a small oxbow to what remains of the Three States Lumber Company Mill.

### South Elevation

South elevation fenestration includes a pair of four-over-four windows, an eight-over-eight window, a small six-over-six window, and two pairs of two four-over-four windows. The rear portion of the elevation was originally a screened-in porch that was enclosed in 1938 and made into a third bedroom.

### East Elevation

The projection that extends from the southeast corner of the east elevation is what was at one time the back porch. The projection is fenestrated on the east side by three four-over-four windows and on the north side by a small four-over-four window. The main body of the house is fenestrated with a pair of six-over-six windows. Access to the rear of the home is gained through a door on the north side of the east elevation. A carport (added in 1938) is attached to the north east corner of the house. The flat roofed carport is supported by wood posts and covered by a flat roof.

### North Elevation

A small projection added in the mid 1940s is located at the back corner of the north elevation. It is fenestrated by a six-over-six window on the north and east sides of the projection. Four original four-over-four windows fenestrate this portion of the house.

### Integrity

The Chris Tompkins House in Burdette, Arkansas, shows the quality of materials and workmanship used to build these simple, yet durable company homes. There have been some changes to the house since it was first constructed. However, all of the changes occurred more than fifty years ago. Located across the street are the last remaining building and other ruin that made up the Three States Lumber Company Mill. The proximity of the mill gives the home an even stronger association with the company for which it was constructed. The house is the best surviving example of what was at one time a street full of similar company houses.

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### SUMMARY

The Chris Tompkins house located at 144 South Oak Dr. in Burdette, AR is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its simplified Bungalow architecture. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as the most pristine example of management housing associated with the Three States Lumber Company that founded the town. The house is one of only two remaining houses that were built for middle management on what was at one time an entire street of similar houses. The only other remaining company house that has not been heavily altered is a smaller shotgun style house. Burdette is a classic example of a company town. The town was formed to support operations of the Three States Lumber Company Mill. The company moved into Burdette in 1898 and began clearing Mississippi County, which at that time was covered in swampland and dense virgin timber. The company owned the town of Burdette from 1898 through 1922 when logging operations were completed and the majority of the mill disassembled and moved down the Mississippi River to Louisiana.

### ELABORATION

In 1898 the majority of Mississippi County, Arkansas, was covered in swamps and large stands of virgin forest. The area's proximity to the Mississippi River and vast timber resources made it an ideal choice for the location of a large lumber mill. Three States Lumber Company was a subsidiary of the John S. Owen Company headquartered in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The mill at Burdette was one of three such mills owned by the company in the south. The other two mills were located at Laurel, Mississippi, and Marked Tree, Arkansas. By 1902 the company owned over 35,000 acres of timberland in Mississippi County alone. The company president W. A. Gilchrist was one of the strongest supporters of early drainage efforts in the county.

Three States Lumber Company owned the town of Burdette from 1898-1922. During these years Burdette was a classic example of the company towns erected throughout the nation to support timber, mining and other various industries. Many northern timber companies took advantage of the lumber boom at the turn of the century and built towns from scratch. Like gold and oil boomtowns these towns were usually short lived.

Because of the lack of roads, railroads, and other modern forms of transportation each company support town had to be fairly self-sufficient. At its peak, prior to the closing of the mill in 1922, Burdette had a population of over 900. It had schools for white and black children, a company store, health care facilities provided by the company, a bathhouse for the workers, a hotel, a honky tonk, a jail, an open-air movie theater, an ice cream parlor, and a park with a bandstand where concerts and lectures were held. There was a sewer and water system, and thanks to the generator used to power the mill, residences of the town, unlike many other Arkansas citizens, had electricity.

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Employee housing for Three States employees was primarily of three types. Superintendents lived in one and one-half story or two story dwellings with screened porches in front, on the sides, and in back. White-collar employees were housed in simplified Bungalow style dwellings such as the one being nominated. Laborers lived in either shotgun or small, hipped roof houses.

Burdette, like other company towns, was built to be expendable. After the timber was cut and the lumber shipped out, the mills would close. In the case of Burdette, 3,200 acres of newly cleared land was purchased for agricultural use by James Tompkins and became known as Burdette Plantation. James had come to Burdette in 1914 as farm manager for Three States Lumber Company. Some of the mill workers' houses became farm laborer houses and remained in the vicinity. A few of the larger houses also remained as housing for the plantation management, but most of the buildings was moved to other locations. Beginning in the 1930s mechanization changed farm labor patterns and fewer people were needed to produce crops. Housing was demolished as the labor force shrank.

The original occupants of the home being nominated are unknown. In 1922 it became the residence of Chris Tompkins. Chris was James Tompkins brother as well as a stockholder and officer of Burdette Plantation. The house remained in the family until 1988 when it was sold to Ricky Robbins. Members of the Tompkins family purchased the home back in 1994. Today it is the residence of Gregory and Charlee Predmore. Mrs. Predmore is a descendant of Chris Tompkins.

Today Burdette's population is only 328. Only two of the many original Bungalow houses remain. The other house has undergone extensive change. The only other company house still recognizable in its original form is a small shotgun house that would have been occupied by a laborer at the mill. There is little remaining evidence of the extensive lumber industry that flourished in Mississippi County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Besides these houses, the only other evidence of the lumber mill at Burdette is the now decaying, large, red brick building later used as the Plantation headquarters and store. Today all the timber is gone and vast acres of farmland are found throughout the county. The remains of the mill are located across the street and a small oxbow and can be easily seen from the Tompkins House. The men who cleared Mississippi County's flooded forest played a major role in the county's transition from a flooded forest to one of the state's most productive agricultural areas.

### Significance

Constructed circa 1903, the Chris Tompkins House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** because it is the best example of a simplified Bungalow style house in Burdette, Arkansas. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as the best extant example of company housing for white-collar employees of the Three States Lumber Company.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interviews with Emily Tompkins Sullivan, 1999-2001

Inteviews with Chris F. Tompkins, Jr., 2000-2001

Residential Real Estate Record Cards, Mississippi County Courthouse, Osceola, AR

"Order Granting Partition of Burdette Plantation", Chancery Court Records, Osceola District, vol. 19, 1941-1944, p. 575-576..

"Order Approving Report of Commissioners...Partition of Burdette Plantation", Chancery Court Records, Osceola District, vol. 20, 1944, p. 25-40

Mississippi County Arkansas: Through the Years. Osceola, AR, Osceola-South Mississippi County Arkansas Historical Heritage Documentation Committee, 1986

Chris Tompkins House

Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Table with 4 columns: Reference Number, Zone, Easting, Northing. Contains data for references 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lot W175' E871' N128' S750' Block SE1/4 SW1/4 Addn: 20-14-11 City: Burdette

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all land and resources historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Hale (edited by Zac Cothren)
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date 7/31/01
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St. Telephone (501)324-9789
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

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 listing. 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 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 Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.







