

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 15 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 22 1977

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
* Routhland; The John Routh House
AND/OR COMMON
Routhland

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 92 Winchester Road
CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF _____
STATE Mississippi CODE 28 COUNTY Adams CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fourth
CODE 001

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Adams County Courthouse, Office of the Chancery Clerk
STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square
CITY, TOWN Natchez STATE Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Landmarks Study of Natchez and Adams County
DATE 1972-1977 FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History
CITY, TOWN Jackson STATE Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Routhland is located in the old suburbs lying just southeast of the original town of Natchez. The house occupies the summit of a high but gently-rounded hill in a large landscaped park. In the circle formed by the graveled front drive are two live oak trees certified by the Mississippi Forestry Commission to have been in place since between 1775 and 1825.¹ The trees are registered with the Live Oak Society of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. Six small twentieth century houses are located on the twenty acres comprising the historic acreage of Routhland. Because they are placed on the edges of the property or behind the house, their presence has not seriously affected the character of the landscaped park. Except for a one-acre portion bounded by Winchester Road on the south and the Routhland drive on the west, the historic lands of Routhland remain intact in the ownership of a single family.

The frame of the one-and-a-half-story house is set on a five-foot-high foundation and is covered with clapboards. Beneath the hip roof with dormers, the entire ninety-three-foot breadth of the nine-bay southwest facade is shaded by a central pedimented portico and flanking flat-roofed galleries. The three-bay portico is reached by a broad flight of stuccoed steps which gently curves inward as it leads up from the gray and white stone paving of the carriage landing. As on the flanking galleries, the portico supports are turned wooden Tuscan columns unconnected by railings. The tympanum, defined by a molded cornice and covered with matched boards, contains an oval light with radiating muntins, similar to pediment lights at Natchez houses constructed between 1812 and 1836, such as Auburn, Rosalie, and Choctaw. Beneath the coved plaster ceiling of the portico, the three center bays of the facade are further differentiated by matched boarding and by the presence in the center bay of a Greek Revival frontispiece containing a rectangular transom set over a single-leaf door with two vertical, molded panels and a center vertical bead. These elements are separated from the sidelights over molded panels by two slender box columns, which, with the large, paneled, outer pilasters, support the full entablature of the frontispiece. The other bays of the facade are filled with six-over-nine floor-length sash, bordered with simple molded architraves, and closed with pairs of louvered blinds.

Routhland's present architectural character, a blend of the Federal and Greek Revival styles with minor elements of the Rococo and Gothic, was achieved in the mid-nineteenth century when the house was extensively enlarged and re-modeled. The basic floor plan of the original 56' x 46' house was preserved, however, at the heart of the present house. This plan consists of a center hall with two rooms on each side. From the back gallery, a door in the rear wall opens onto a narrow, straight flight of stairs which lead up to the two unequally-sized upper rooms. The upper rooms are lit by two original rear dormers containing sash with semi-elliptical heads of a naive design. These dormers are matched by two others on the front, walled off from the interior, and hidden on the exterior by the portico. One of the front dormers bears

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4 - OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mrs. Laurie G. Ratcliffe
92 Winchester Road
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Mrs. Hector Howard
411 South Rankin Street
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Mrs. Charles E. Ratcliffe
92 Winchester Road
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Mr. Paul L. Sumrall
137 Winchester Road
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Mrs. Pauline A. Sumrall
137 Winchester Road
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Mrs. Theodosia P. Eidt
139 Winchester Road
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

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7 - DESCRIPTION

what may be the original wallpaper in an open tracery pattern of blue flowers and foliage on a white ground. The addition of the portico was followed at mid-century by a more ambitious construction program that more than doubled the size of the house and produced a plan shape resembling a "T" with an off-center shaft. This program included the addition of a large room to each end of the house and the attachment of a dining wing to the rear gallery of the old house at the east corner, happily preserving for later historians a large portion of the wood shingles roofing the original house. On the interior, much of the delicately-molded, Federal style woodwork at the doors, windows, and chimneyside cabinets was removed from the old house to the end extensions and replaced with well-detailed Greek Revival bases, doors, and windows. The two rooms to the northwest of the center hall were thrown together as double parlors separated by fluted columns and half columns supporting three unequal arches. The original columned marble mantelpieces, excellent examples of early nineteenth century design, were reinstalled in the end extensions and replaced with a pair of marble mantelpieces of a vaguely Gothic, curvilinear design.

By 1864, the area between the rear wing and the southeast extension had been covered for use as a gallery, producing the present "L"-shaped plan and preserving the wood shingles and copper flashing of the roofs of the earlier additions.² This gallery was enclosed with glass walls as part of an extensive renovation in 1946 and 1947. These later changes to the house, except for the addition of the front galleries and the front and side dormers, have not substantially affected the architectural character established in the mid-nineteenth century.

NOTES

¹Sid Boteler to Mrs. Charles E. Ratcliffe, Dec. 31, 1975 (copy), Routhland folder, Jackson, Miss.

²"Map of the Defences [sic] of Natchez and Vicinity," Record Group 77, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Routhland was the home of John Routh, "at one time the largest Cotton planter in the world," and was once owned by Charles Clark, the Civil War governor of Mississippi. The fine and unusual elements of the local vernacular Federal style found at Routhland in combination with well-detailed features of the mid-nineteenth century give it architectural significance and document the changing tastes and rising wealth of John Routh, the original owner. The house retains intact examples of original wall hangings, roof coverings, and flashing. The surrounding park retains some original elements of the planting and is landscaped in the English manner described as typical of the area by early visitors to Natchez.¹

There have been three houses called Routhland, all constructed on the same 180-acre plantation comprising Section 30 in Township 7, Range 3 West. In 1805 this plantation contained only one dwelling.² This dwelling was the first Routhland, a house which Job Routh had acquired with the land in 1794 and which he enlarged and retained as his own home until his death in 1834.³ In 1856 it was destroyed and replaced by another house on the same site. Though known initially as Routhland, this second dwelling received its present name, Dunlieth, between 1859 and 1866, and the name Routhland passed to its third and final recipient, the home of Job Routh's son John.⁴

Both stylistic and documentary evidence suggests that Routhland was constructed between ca. 1815, when John attained his majority, and 1824, when his father caused to be "surveyed and laid off for Mr. John Routh including his house a Lot of Land containing Ten Acres."⁵ This lot and an adjoining ten acres added by John in 1835 comprise the historic lands of Routhland.⁶

Routhland provides important documentation for the thesis that Natchez was once the social center for planters who, like John Routh, owned working plantations elsewhere, usually along the Mississippi River in Louisiana or Mississippi, but maintained seasonal residences on park-like estates in the suburbs surrounding Natchez. John and the other children of Job Routh were "planters in the same place [Tensas Parish, Louisiana], all retaining their fall and summer houses in the suburbs of Natchez till the breaking out of the late war, when they had under plow about twenty thousand acres of land and owned over five thousand slaves."⁷ The wealth of the Routh family, and especially of the eldest son John, was noted even in the Natchez region, where large fortunes were not uncommon. "John Routh was in his day called the Cotton King. His crop just before the war amounted to eight thousand eight hundred and forty-two bales in one year. He owned so many Negroes that he

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County. Chancery Clerk. Deed books C:151, Deed from Stampley to Routh, September 6, 1794; N:458, Survey and Plat Map by George Dougharty, May 21, 1824; W:114, Deed from Ellis to Routh, 1835; W:115, Survey and Plat Map by John Maxwell, August 1, 1833; MM:126, Deed from Dahlgren to Davis, January 4, 1859; NN:612, Deed from Davis to Baldwin, January 10, 1866; QQ:292, Deed from Britton and Koontz to Clark, September 17, 1870; 4Y:287,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	6 5 2 5 4 0	3 4 9 1 6 6 0	B	1 5	6 5 2 4 9 5	3 4 9 1 3 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 5	6 5 2 2 1 0	3 4 9 1 3 7 0	D	1 5	6 5 2 2 1 0	3 4 9 1 7 0 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That parcel of land containing 20 (twenty) acres more or less and lying within the limits of Natchez and bound as follows: on the north, by a line of "Arlington" running S 89° E, 10.19 chains; on the east, by a line of "Ashburn" running S 0°25" E, 16.32 chains; on the south, by a line running S 88°37"E, 11.56 chains along a portion of Winchester Road; on the southwest, by a large bayou; and on the northwest, by a branch of that large bayou.

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

Ronald W. Miller, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

January 12, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer R. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 4, 1977

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

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

8/22/77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

8. 22. 77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

did not know them all. His silver dinner service cost him \$35,000."⁸ Benjamin L. C. Wailes, founder of the Mississippi Historical Society, remarked in his diary in 1859 that John Routh "was at one time the largest Cotton planter in the world [and] has yet an immense estate after settling his children and grandchildren on farms."⁹ John also attained some distinction serving as a member of the Wilkinson Rifles from Natchez in the Battle of New Orleans and as a member of the Louisiana legislature. He died in 1867 at Kenilworth plantation on Lake St. Joseph, Louisiana.¹⁰

Three years later, Routhland was acquired by another prominent Mississippian, Charles Clark, who had served during the Mexican War as a Colonel and during the Civil War as a General and the governor of Mississippi.¹¹

In 1946 the Clark descendants sold Routhland to the present owners who have renovated and remodeled parts of Routhland to suit their needs and have maintained the house and grounds in excellent condition. Their attention to history helps make Routhland a memorial to the outstanding families who have occupied the property through the years. The house is opened to the public each March for the Natchez pilgrimage.

NOTES

¹Russell, p. 291; Ingraham, 2:191.

²Wilson, p. 4.

³Deed book C:151, Adams Co.; American State Papers 1:875; Map entitled "T.VIII.R.III.W.," Record Group 49, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Sydnor, p. 90; Dahlgren, Letter to the editor; Lanfair, 4:22.

⁴Dahlgren, Letter; Dahlgren, Advertisement for sale of Routhland; Deed books MM:126, NN:612.

⁵Lanfair, 4:22, 317; Deed book N:458.

⁶Deed books W:114; 115, 4Y:287; 5M:381.

⁷Goodspeed, 2:522.

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⁸Goodspeed, 2:523.

⁹Sydnor, p. 90.

¹⁰Lanfair, 4:22.

¹¹Goodspeed, 1:549-52; Deed book QQ:292.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed from Fiquett to Warren, October 26, 1939; 5M:381, Deed from Fiquett to Henderson, April 19, 1946.

American State Papers: Public Lands. Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1832.

Dahlgren, Charles G. Advertisement for the sale of Routhland. Natchez Daily Courier, March 25, 1858.

Dahlgren, Charles G. Letter to the editor. Natchez Democrat, January 24, 1886.

Goodspeed Publishing Co. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. 1891. Reprint. Wooster, Ohio: Bell and Howell Micropublishers, 1973.

[Ingraham, Joseph Holt.] The South-west. By a Yankee. 2 vols. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1835.

Jackson, Mississippi. Department of Archives and History. National Register File. Routhland folder.

Lanfair, Mildred Jones, comp. "Bible Records and a Few Genealogies." 4 vols. Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Daughters of the American Revolution, 1936-37. Machine copied.

Natchez, Mississippi. A. V. Davis Collection (private). "Survey and Map of the Divisions of the Estate of Job Routh." Copy by Joseph B. Stratton of 1838 original by Joseph Mitchell.

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Russell, William Howard. My Diary, North and South. Boston: T. O. H. P. Burnham, 1863.

Sydnor, Charles S. A Gentleman of the Old Natchez Region: Benjamin L. C. Wailes. 1938. Reprint. Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press, 1970.

Washington, D.C. National Archives. Record Group 49. Records of the Bureau of Land Management. General Land Office. Mississippi Local Office Plat-book No. 35. Map entitled "T.VIII.R.III.W." (Copy in Township Maps, Chancery Clerk's Records, Adams County, Natchez, Miss.).

Washington, D.C. National Archives. Record Group 77. Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers. Cartographic Records. Drawer 138. Sheet 39. Map entitled "Map of the Defences [sic] of Natchez and Vicinity., Capt. John M. Wilson, Chief Engr., prepared and surveyed under Direction of Capt. P. Hains U.S. Engrs., 1864."

Wilson, Samuel, Jr., ed. "City of Natchez, Assessments in Conformity of an Ordinance of the 17th July 1805." New Orleans: Samuel Wilson, Jr., 1974. Machine copied.