

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0697508

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 28 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pleasant Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Pleasant Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

310 Pearl Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

028

COUNTY

Adams

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Koon

STREET & NUMBER

310 Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Office of the Chancery Clerk
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>ca. 1858</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pleasant Hill is a story-and-a-half Greek Revival residence located at 310 Pearl Street in Natchez, Mississippi. Constructed of a wooden frame above a tall brick basement, the house is finished with original clapboard siding and modern asbestos roofing. The facade, or east elevation, is a five-bay composition, with a diminutive single-bay portico placed on the center axis. Designed with tapered paneled columns and pilasters supporting a simple entablature and pediment, the portico shelters a pilastered frontispiece with side lights, transom, and eight-panel door. Flanking the portico are six-over-six windows with original blinds hung on parliament hinges.

The interior arrangement of Pleasant Hill is based on the double-pile plan with the common regional variation of a small rear gallery flanked by unheated cabinets. A staircase, designed with a turned newel and plain balusters, which spirals to the upper floor from a lower run of straight steps is set in the rear portion of the central passage. A dormer lights the stairwell and provides headroom beneath the eaves for a small railed platform, the purpose of which is unknown. Double parlors separated by sliding doors framed by a handsome pilastered frontispiece occupy the space north of the passage library, and bedrooms are opposite. Each room is served by an interior fireplace with pilastered mantels, executed in marble for the more important parlors and in wood for the less public rooms opposite. In the two bedrooms upstairs, simple battered-and-eared architrave pieces serve as mantels. Other woodwork consists of symmetrically molded door and window trim with corner blocks in the center passage and parlors and similar, yet unmolded, trim in all other rooms.

To accommodate modern conveniences, the rear cabinets have been adapted into a kitchen and a bathroom, while the small gallery between the cabinets has been enclosed for use as a study. Plans are now being developed to rehabilitate the basement rooms, which contain some interesting Federal woodwork obviously reused from an earlier structure.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pleasant Hill is an excellent example of an early Greek Revival city residence of the 1830s. Well designed and executed, the house features a distinctive open staircase that begins in a straight run and terminates in a spiral. The structure was built for John Henderson, prosperous merchant and one of the most distinguished early citizens of Natchez.

Although Pleasant Hill is now located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Pearl and Orleans streets, the house was originally located one block away on the northeast corner of the intersection of Pearl and Washington streets (Mary Elizabeth Postlethwaite, Trace Haven Nursing Home, 344 Arlington Ave., Natchez, Miss., interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, Oct. 23, 1978). John Henderson (1755-1841) purchased the property upon which Pleasant Hill was originally located in 1815, after selling The Elms, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, which was constructed for him (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, The Elms nomination to the National Register of Historic Places). According to the 1815 deed, the property contained a large frame dwelling (Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book H:313), which title research indicates was constructed between 1800 and 1804 (Deed Book C:428 and B:266). In the 1830s, the early nineteenth-century house was apparently replaced by the present structure. Some of the earlier house may have been reused, since some of the doors and windows of the basement level are of early nineteenth-century design. However, construction details and stylistic evidence provide no basis on which to assume that the earlier house was remodeled.

John Henderson, a native of Scotland, settled in Natchez in 1787. A prosperous merchant and book dealer, Henderson was the author of the only known literary work written in Natchez before the city became part of the territory of the United States. The work was entitled Paine Detected, or the Unreasonableness of Paine's Age of Reason, and was published in 1797 (D. Clayton James, Antebellum Natchez [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968], p. 38). Henderson was also one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church, the congregation having been officially organized at his house in 1817 (James, p. 245). Upon his death in 1841, Henderson willed the house in which he was residing to his daughter Susan (Will Book 2:236). An inventory of Pleasant Hill, made upon Henderson's death, indicates that the house was set upon a raised basement in its original location much as it now rests at the present site (Probate Box 84).

In March, 1858, Susan Henderson sold the Pleasant Hill property to her brother Thomas (Deed Book LL:603). In that same month, Thomas Henderson purchased the lot upon which Pleasant Hill is now located (Deed Book LL:604), and subsequently moved the house to its present location to free the lot for construction of his new mansion, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as the Henderson-Britton House.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books B, C, H, LL, ZZ, 11U.
Adams County, Miss. Circuit Clerk. Marriage Book 7.
Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Probate Boxes 84, 184.
Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Will Book 2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Miss.-LA.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 6 5 1 3 3 0 3,4 9,2 3,4 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached photocopy of city tax map with the nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on city tax map 59, block 5 parcels 10 and 11.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE William C. Allen, Research Consultant
Mary Warren Miller, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Private consultants

DATE

November 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

506 High Street

TELEPHONE

(601) 442-9786

CITY OR TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer A. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3-28-79

ATTEST: [Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/27/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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8. Statement of Significance (cont'd)

Both before and after the move, Pleasant Hill appears to have been principally the residence of Alexander J. Postlethwaite and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Browder (Marriage Book 7:13), granddaughter of John Henderson. Mary Elizabeth Browder appears to have lived with her grandfather after her mother's death, as she was the only grandchild mentioned in John Henderson's will (Will Book 2:236). An 1855 obituary refers to a Henderson funeral being held in the house of Alexander J. Postlethwaite at the corner of Pearl and Washington streets (Natchez Daily Courier, June 16, 1855, p.3). Among Thomas Henderson's probate papers is a city tax receipt dated 1866, indicating that the Postlethwaites were paying taxes on a piece of Henderson's property (Probate Box 171).

Alexander Postlethwaite was a merchant whose dry goods business was located on Main Street between Pearl and Wall (Natchez Daily Courier, June 20, 1855, p.2). Like his wife, he was descended from an early and prosperous family (James, p. 150). His dry goods business burned in 1866 (The Natchez Weekly Courier, July 2, 1866, p. 4). and he died shortly afterwards (Probate Box 184). In 1885, his widow finally purchased the house in which apparently she had resided for over thirty years (Deed Book ZZ:503). The house remained in the Postlethwaite (Henderson) family until 1971, when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. John MacIlroy (Deed Book 11U:147), who installed modern conveniences, ceiling cornices, and chair moldings (Martha Koon, photographs of Pleasant Hill before the MacIlroy residency). The present owners, Natchez Democrat publisher Warren Koon and his wife, purchased the property in 1978.

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd)

James D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.

Koon, Martha. Photographs of Pleasant Hill before the MacIlroy residency.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Henderson-Britton House and The Elms nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

Natchez City Cemetery, Adams Co., Miss.

Natchez Daily Courier, June 16, 1855.

Natchez Daily Courier, June 20, 1855.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

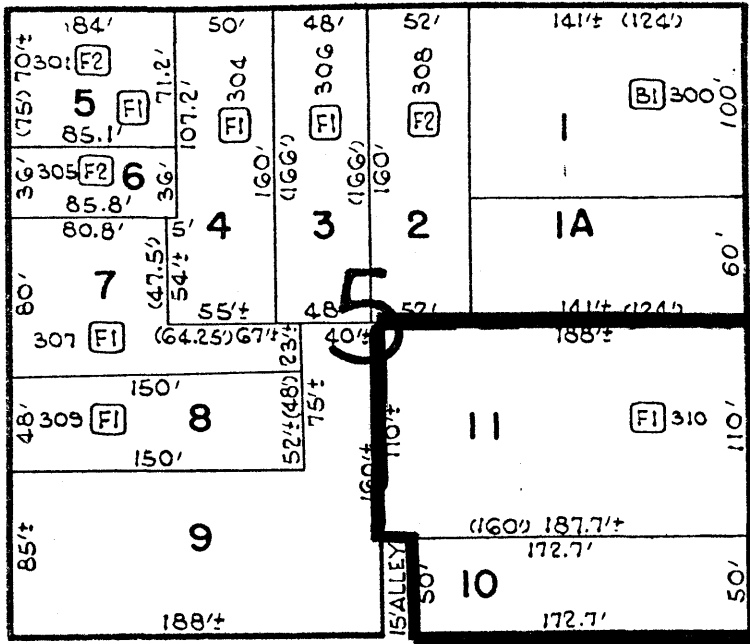
9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd)

The Natchez Weekly Courier, July 2, 1866.

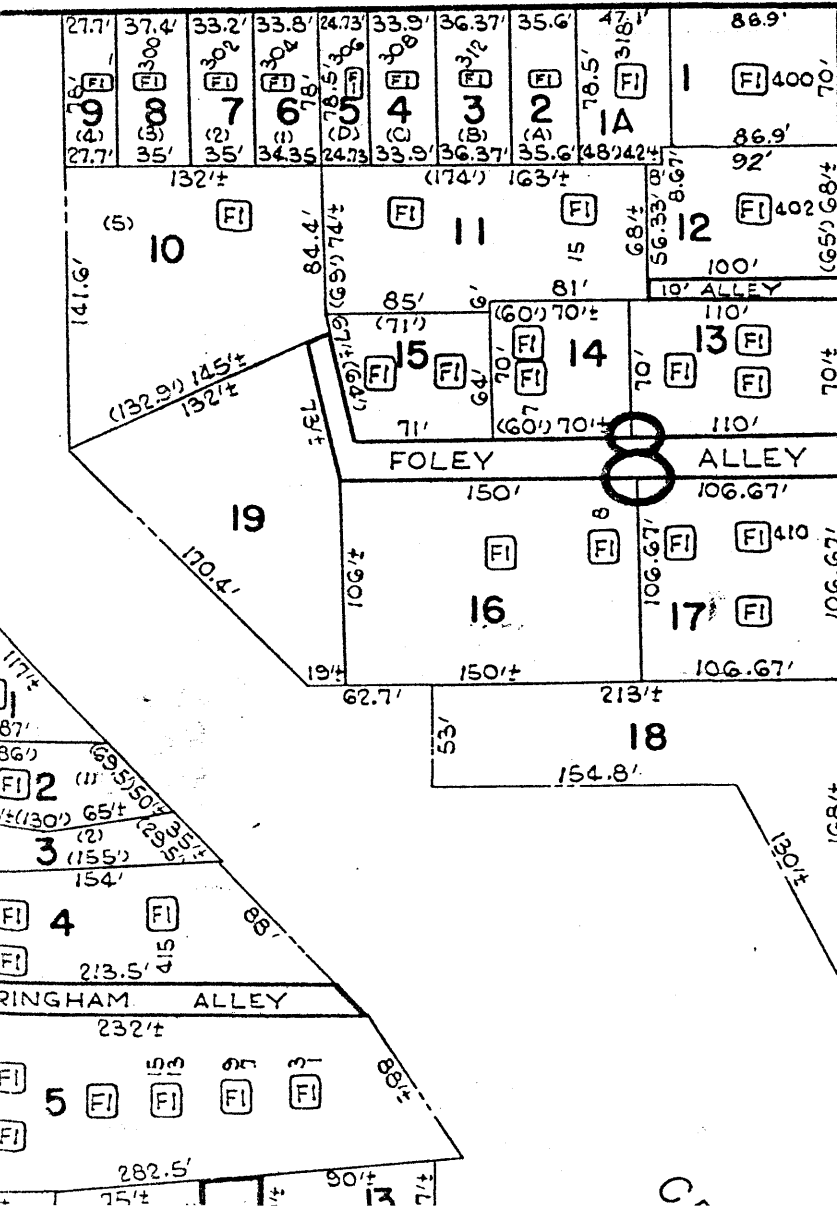
Postlethwaite, Mary Elizabeth. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller at Trace Haven Nursing Home, 344 Arlington Ave., Natchez, Miss., Oct. 23, 1978.

WASHINGTON

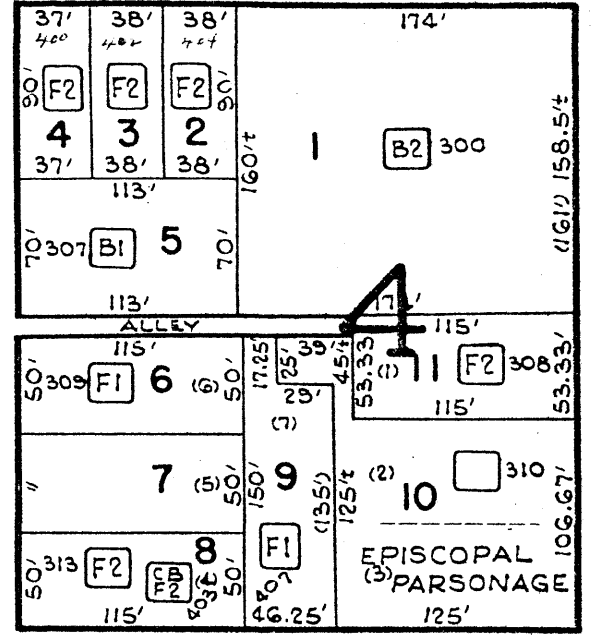
SOUTH WALL STREET



ORLEANS

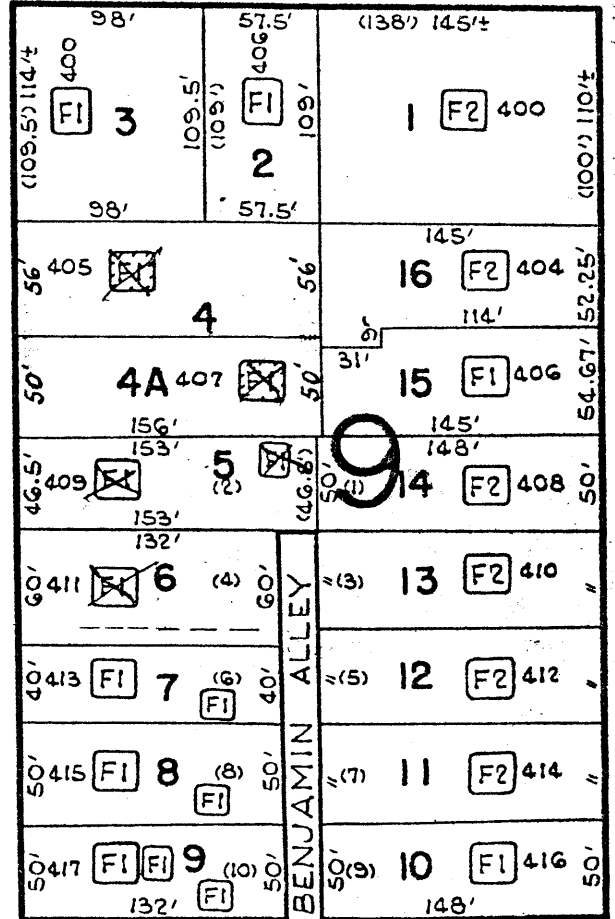


STREET



STREET

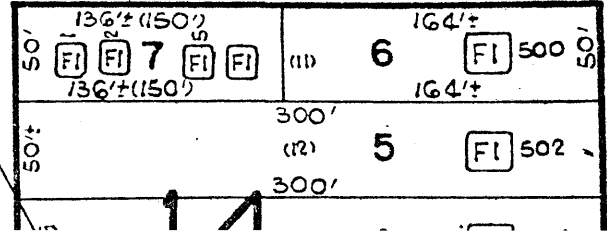
PEARL



COMMERCE

PIPES

ALLEY



Pikeason + Hill
Map 59
Block 5
Paras 1s 10, 11