

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 12 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 29 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

Lisle-Shields Town House

AND/OR COMMON

Shields Town House; Petit Bijou

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Union Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Natchez

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

28

Adams

1

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Perkins

STREET & NUMBER

705 Shadow Lane

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

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the northeast corner of Union and B streets in Natchez, Mississippi, is the Lisle-Shields Town House, a late Greek Revival residence built at some time between 1860 and 1864. A principal story-and-a-half block, facing west, a north wing, and a U-shaped service wing, all constructed of brick laid in common bond, are the three major sections of the structure. The facade is a symmetrical five-bay composition dominated by a wooden three-bay portico of fluted Doric columns standing on paneled pedestals and supporting an entablature and pediment. In the tympanum is a single arched window set in a field of flush boards. A substantial railing, designed with a horseshoe arcade between the foot and hand rails, runs between the pedestals except in the center bay, where slate-covered brick steps descend to the walk. The paneled entrance door is hung in a pilastered frontispiece, notable for its ogee-bracketed dentils, and is surrounded by side lights and a transom glazed with frosted and etched amber glass. Six-over-six windows topped with stretcher jack-arches complete the fenestration of the facade. Unlike the remaining elevations, which are stuccoed, the facade is finished with an all-stretcher veneer above a shelf water table.

The rear, or east, elevation features wooden stairs, landings, dormers, and supports installed in the late 1940s to accommodate two apartments which occupy the second floor of the residence. Several doors which now lead to the altered rear gallery were cut from original windows, but fortunately the back door, with its side lights and transom, has survived intact. Attached to the north elevation, and accessible only through the rear gallery, is a small one-room wing apparently contemporary with the principal block. A single six-over-eight window, flanked by shuttered shams, provides access to a three-bay gallery along its western elevation. Fluted Doric columns on pedestals and the horseshoe arcade railing recall the major decorative elements of the neighboring portico, but the effect is decidedly more domestic in nature. Attached by a small wooden hyphen to the rear of the north wing is the U-shaped service wing, a highly vernacular unornamented structure with an undercut gallery along its south elevation. Where the service wing returns along the northern edge of the property, and is thus visible as part of the facade, the essential character of the building is masked by a two-bay frontispiece, with a tall parapet treated as an entablature matching that of the main house. A make-shift shelter added to the frontispiece tends to detract from the effect of the facade.

The interior of the principal block is arranged in a typical double-pile plan, varied slightly to accommodate small cabinets behind the two chambers on either side of the central passage. Rising from the passage is an open-well staircase with turned balusters, a substantial turned newel, a continuous handrail, and a paneled spandrel. Door trim consists of wide double-fascia eared architraves framing four-panel doors and, interestingly, paneled transoms. When the interior underwent modernization during the Colonial Revival period, the opening into the front parlor was widened to accommodate a screen of Doric columns standing on pedestals, which nicely recalls the treatment of the portico. Apparently, the parlor door and transom were reused in the expanded double-leaf opening directly opposite. In both alterations, careful attention was given to matching the original Greek Revival trim. Replacement of three mantels was evidently also a part of the turn-of-the-century modernization program. A pair of robustly carved and veneered mantels was installed in the double chambers on the southern side of the house, while an architrave piece and shelf were installed in the front room on the opposite side. Untouched, however, were two wooden mantels dating from the 1860 period, which were designed with fluted and chamfered pilasters, low Tudor arches, keystones, and serpentine shelves. Notable plaster work in each room of the main floor consists of Rococo Revival centerpieces, from which were suspended gas-burning chandeliers.

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 1860-64

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lisle-Shields Town House is architecturally significant as an example of a well-designed and -executed late-Greek Revival city residence. It is historically significant to Natchez as the residence of a locally prominent upper-middle-class family of the antebellum period and as one of the last major antebellum residences constructed within the corporate limits of the city.

Documentary and stylistic evidence indicates that the Lisle-Shields Town House was constructed between 1860 and 1864. A marked increase in sale price reveals that the house was constructed during the Lisle ownership. In 1860 the property upon which the house was built was sold to Isabelle Lisle for \$1,400.¹ In 1869 Isabelle Lisle "and husband" conveyed the property to Wilmer Shields for \$9,000.² The house was definitely constructed by 1864, since it appears on the map of the defenses of Natchez drawn that year. Marriage records reveal that Isabelle Lisle's husband was Maurice Lisle and that Isabelle's maiden name was Stockman.³ Since the 1850 census records her birthplace as Kentucky,⁴ she was probably the daughter of John R. Stockman, mayor of Natchez from 1844 to 1850.⁵ In the 1850 census, John Stockman's two eldest children living at home, one older and one younger than Isabelle Stockman Lisle, are recorded as having been born in Kentucky.⁶ John Stockman was a merchant and a prominent member of the middle class in antebellum Natchez.⁷ Maurice Lisle, Isabelle's husband, was the owner of the Natchez Foundry, which employed from twenty-five to thirty laborers and was regarded as one of the most complete establishments of its type in the Southwest.⁸ An 1852 newspaper advertisement describes products made by the Natchez Foundry and notes that the business had been in operation for seven years.⁹ In 1855 the Natchez Foundry was almost totally destroyed by fire; only the pattern shop, casting shed, and office equipment were saved.¹⁰ Lisle rebuilt and expanded his business to include the installation of gas pipes for businesses and residences.¹¹ Cistern covers and gutter grates made by the Natchez Foundry are still common in Natchez. The records of the First Presbyterian Church of Natchez list a "Morris" Lisle, who is recorded as having been accepted into membership in 1843 by transfer of certificate from Wilmington, Delaware.¹² The 1850 census records the birthplace of Maurice "Leisle" as Delaware and lists his occupation as machinist.¹³ After selling their house in 1869, Maurice Lisle and his wife probably left Adams County. According to family tradition, the Lisles moved to their plantation in Louisiana, where Isabelle soon died. The Lisle children were reared by her sister, Mary Stockman Fleming, who lived in Natchez at the Towers.¹⁴ Maurice Lisle's death is recorded in the First Presbyterian Church records as having occurred in April, 1885,¹⁵ but local records indicate that he did not die in Adams County.

The Lisle-Shields Town House was sold in 1869 to Wilmer Shields, originally from New Orleans but with family connections in Natchez. He operated Laurel Hill Plantation south of Natchez for Dr. William Mercer, and his residence in Natchez became known as the Shields Town House.¹⁶ The house was known as the Shields Town House as late as 1949,¹⁷ although

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books NN, PP, 4-D.

Adams Co., Miss. Circuit Clerk. Marriage Book 6.

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 | 652199 | 3493020
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached photocopy of city tax map with nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on city tax map 9, block 2, parcels 11 and 12.

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 Mary Warren Miller, Research Consultant
William C. Allen, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION Private consultants DATE November 13, 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

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. Millard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE February 5, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST: <u>Charles G. [Signature]</u>	DATE <u>3-29-79</u>
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>9/29/79</u>

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7 - DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes two twentieth-century rental houses located behind the main house, facing Rankin Street.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Mrs. Marceline Feltus Fernstrom had earlier changed the name to Petit Bijou. The Feltus family acquired the house in 1912,¹⁸ and it was probably during their residency that several of the original mantelpieces were replaced with ones of more modern design. The second floor of the house was remodeled by the Feltus family for conversion into rental units.

The house has been recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Perkins, who intend to restore the house to a single-family dwelling and to call the house by its historic name, the Lisle-Shields Town House.

Notes

¹ Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book NN:40.

² Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book PP:319.

³ Adams Co., Miss., Marriage Book 6:967.

⁴ United States Census Records for Mississippi, 1850.

⁵ Thomas M. McNeely, 107 Shadyside St., Natchez, Miss., photocopies of pages from an unidentified publication that lists the mayors and aldermen of Natchez, p. 322.

⁶ United States Census Records for Mississippi, 1850.

⁷ D. Clayton James, Antebellum Natchez (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968), p. 95.

⁸ James, p. 206.

⁹ The Natchez Courier, Feb. 4, 1853, p. 2.

¹⁰ Natchez Daily Courier, May 19, 1855, p. 3.

¹¹ Natchez Daily Free Trader, Apr. 1, 1858, p. 1.

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

¹² Records of the First Presbyterian Church, Natchez, Miss., 1817-1902, microfilm copy, Armstrong Library, Natchez, Miss., n.p.

¹³ United States Census Records for Mississippi, 1850.

¹⁴ Interview with Anne Fleming Persell Gill, 407 Orleans St., Natchez, Miss., Nov. 2, 1978. Mrs. Gill is the great-granddaughter of Mary Stockman Fleming, the sister of Isabelle Lisle.

¹⁵ Records of the First Presbyterian Church.

¹⁶ Interview with Margaret Hendrix, 600 Washington St., Natchez, Miss., Nov. 13, 1978. Mrs. Hendrix is the granddaughter of Wilmer Shields.

¹⁷ Edith Wyatt Moore, "Fondly I Roam," The Natchez Times, copyright 1948, microfilm of newspaper articles written as part of a series of articles on Natchez houses, no dates on individual articles, Armstrong Library, Natchez, Miss.

¹⁸ Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book 4-D:697.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McNeely, Thomas M. 107 Shadyside St., Natchez, Miss. Photocopies of pages from an unidentified publication that lists the mayors and aldermen of Natchez.

Miller, Mary Warren. Interview with Anne Fleming Persell Gill, 407 Orleans St., Natchez, Miss., Nov. 2, 1978.

_____. Interview with Margaret Hendrix, 600 Washington St., Natchez, Miss., Nov. 13, 1978.

Moore, Edith Wyatt. "Fondly I Roam." The Natchez Times, copyright 1948. Microfilm of newspaper articles written as part of a series of articles on Natchez houses, no dates on individual articles, Armstrong Library, Natchez, Miss.

Natchez Daily Courier, May 19, 1855, p. 3.

Natchez Daily Free Trader, Apr. 1, 1858, p. 1.

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