

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PH 0666459
FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

RECEIVED APR 5 1978

DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1978

**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

Lansdowne

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pine Ridge Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

 VICINITY OF

CODE

28

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 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

Mrs. George M. Marshall III ✓

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 413

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Adams County Landmarks Inventory

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Natchez Metropolitan Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Lansdowne is a one-story Greek Revival house located on fifty acres of land remaining from an original 727-acre tract three miles north of Natchez, Mississippi. The residence faces west from an elevated site which also contains two brick dependencies flanking the rear service yard and a double brick privy. Standing two stories high, each dependency contains four rooms, a central chimney, double galleries supported by square columns, and an exterior stair. The south building once housed a billiard parlor, office, schoolroom, and governess's quarters, while the kitchen, washroom, and servants' quarters were located in the north building. Today, rental units occupy these matching structures.

The residence is a nearly square structure measuring sixty by sixty-eight feet, raised on a high basement and constructed of brick covered with stucco scored in imitation of ashlar masonry. A hipped roof covers the house and is surmounted by a lantern which admits light to the attic through narrow, clerestory windows. The principal, or west, elevation is divided into five bays, the center three of which are sheltered by a portico of fluted Doric columns, entablature, and steeply raked pediment. An iron balustrade cast with the popular lyre motif follows the perimeter of the portico except in the center bay, where gracefully flared steps descend five feet to the ground. The principal entrance is contained in a pilastered frontispiece with engaged columns separating the four-paneled door from flanking sidelights. Jib doors under double-hung, six-over-six windows provide additional interior access from the portico.

A gallery occupies the entire sixty-foot width of the rear, or east, elevation. Because it faces a service yard, the design of the rear gallery is less academic than its portico counterpart on the facade. Square, paneled columns with simple molded bases and caps are used instead of round, fluted columns. Much of the gallery is enclosed with stationary blinds above a wooden railing as a measure against inclement weather.

The interior of Lansdowne is arranged in a triple-pile plan containing a central passage fourteen feet wide separating a parlor, dining room, and large butler's pantry on the north from three bedrooms opposite. A small stair located in the butler's pantry gives access to various storage rooms in the basement and attic.

Like many of its contemporaries, Lansdowne contains simple Greek Revival woodwork proportioned to be in scale with the spacious rooms. Six-panel doors, fitted with silver-plated hardware, are surrounded by batter-and-eared architraves supporting cornices which rise slightly on axis to suggest pediments. A large pilastered frontispiece frames the opening between the parlor and dining rooms, which can be closed off by means of sliding doors. Baseboards are fifteen inches high and are grained to imitate oak or marbleized to match the black or white mantels in various rooms. Decorative plaster work is limited to wide cornices and centerpieces.

The most significant feature of the interior of Lansdowne is its remarkably well-preserved decorative scheme, which, in the parlor at least, represents one of the most complete statements of the Rococo Revival taste in America to survive from the mid-nineteenth century. Hanging from gilt window cornices are the original brocaded damask lambrequins, which have faded from scarlet to a golden pink. The hand-blocked wallpaper, imported from the Alsatian firm of Jean Zuber et Cie, divides the walls into a series of vertical panels which frame large sculpturesque figures with elaborately

6 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Decorative arts
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1853 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is perhaps no other historic structure in Mississippi which enjoys such remarkable integrity as Lansdowne, a highly significant Greek Revival residence located three miles north of Natchez, on Pine Ridge Road. When it was constructed in ca. 1853, the interior was lavishly decorated in the prevailing Rococo Revival taste with many items imported from Europe along with domestic arts and manufactures. The most significant feature of the interior scheme is the Zuber "fresco paper," which, according to Catherine L. Frangiamore, may be the only example of this popular mid-nineteenth century treatment to survive in an American house (Frangiamore to Marshall, February 19, 1976). In addition, original draperies, furniture, graining, marbling, hardware, and fixtures, although often tattered and worn, have been carefully preserved by three generations of the Marshall family, who have occupied Lansdowne since it was constructed. Because of their responsible stewardship, this remarkable document has survived as one of the nation's most significant examples of a sophisticated Rococo Revival interior scheme.

Lansdowne was built as the residence of George M. Marshall (1830-99) on land given to him by David Hunt, whose daughter Charlotte married Marshall in 1852 (Deed Book LL, p. 386). After attending Jefferson College in Washington, Mississippi, Marshall received an A.M. degree from Princeton and was engaged in planting at the time of his marriage. His extensive agricultural holdings in Mississippi and Louisiana were valued at \$319,000 in 1860, a figure which does not include much of his earned and inherited wealth (James, p. 156). Like many wealthy planters, Marshall was active in the political, religious, and military affairs of his time. In 1855, he was elected to the Board of Police, afterwards called the Board of Supervisors, of Adams County and was subsequently reelected in 1858 and 1860. During the Civil War he served with the Natchez Southrons and was wounded during the Battle of Shiloh, April, 1862. Discharged from the Confederate Army shortly thereafter, Marshall returned to Lansdowne, where he resumed his interests in civic activities, politics, and planting. In 1888, and again in 1890, Marshall represented Adams County in the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he served on the committee on appropriation and education. For many years, Marshall served as a vestry man of Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez (Good-speed, 2:398-99).

After Marshall's death in 1899, Lansdowne was occupied by his son, and it is currently the home of his grandson's widow, Mrs. George M. Marshall III, and his granddaughter, Mrs. Singleton Gardner (nee Agnes Marshall). This continuity of family ownership has assured the integrity of the buildings and their contents, thus preserving one of America's most significant mid-nineteenth century architectural sites.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed book LL, p. 386. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Washington, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

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

B 1,5 | 6,5,5 | 5,4,0 | 3,4 | 9,5 | 2,5,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1,5 | 6,5,5 | 0,9,0 | 3,4 | 9,5 | 2,5,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1,5 | 6,5,5 | 0,9,0 | 3,4 | 9,5 | 4,4,0

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property represents the acreage necessary to encompass the residence, related outbuildings, and access road from the property line. Beginning at the bayou immediately south of the access road, the nominated property follows a line east for

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

March 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

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

Edward B. Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 30, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Edward Charles Peterson
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-24-78

ATTEST: *William C. Allen*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

6-29-78

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4,6,7,9 PAGE 1

4 - OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mrs. Singleton Gardner
P. O. Box 1682
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites
1964 x state
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson Mississippi 39205

7 - DESCRIPTION

colored flowered borders. Known in the nineteenth century as "fresco papers," these which have survived at Lansdowne may well be unique in American decorative arts. Completing the scheme are a bronze chandelier with its original shades, which was supplied by gas manufactured on the place; a carved marble mantelpiece; and a set of splendid parlor furniture designed in the Belter style, although it was imported from France. The remarkable integrity of this elaborate interior design is the glory of Lansdowne.

Intrusions necessary to keep the house usable as a residence have been kept to a minimum. In the early twentieth century a bathroom was installed in the southeast corner of the rear gallery. Electricity was not introduced until 1940. In 1962, a second bathroom was added by enclosing one corner of a bedroom with arched blinds eight feet tall. That same year, a kitchen, which carefully preserved the original, oak-grained cabinets, was installed in the butler's pantry.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Adams County. "Lansdowne." Catherine L. Frangiamore to Mrs. George M. Marshall, February 19, 1976.
- James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.
- Miller, Ronald W. "Historic Preservation in Natchez, Mississippi." The Magazine Antiques. Vol. III, No. 3 (March, 1977): 538-45.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mississippi. Secretary of State. Register of Commissions, 1858-1864, 1887-1891.
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Record Group 28.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

1,461 feet; turns north for 626 feet; turns west for 1,315 feet; then follows the bayou south to point of beginning.

Wilderness
Ch. Cem

LANSDOWNE
Vicinity of Natchez, Adams County,
Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES:

- A 15/655540/3495440
- B 15/655540/3495250
- C 15/655090/3495250
- D 15/655090/3495440

