

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0673943

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 5 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 Ravensaside

AND/OR COMMON Ravensaside

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
601 South Union Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF

STATE Mississippi CODE 28 COUNTY Adams CODE 1

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 John and Verda Van Hook ✓

STREET & NUMBER
601 South Union Street

CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Office of 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

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ravennaside, located on approximately three acres at the corner of South Union Street and Ravenna Lane, is a Neo-Classical residence with an irregular configuration. The two-story wooden structure features a tiled hip roof and two porticoes. The north (front) facade has two-story wooden Ionic columns supporting a pediment with demilune light. The semi-circular west portico has five columns and is crowned by a balustrade. The facades are separated by a three-story octagonal tower surmounted by a balustrade. A balcony wraps around the angled walls of the tower, crosses the north facade, and continues around the east side of the building, where one-story columns are used for support. The lower gallery measures 120 feet in length. The massive frontispiece contains two full-size oak doors with round-arch panels inset with beveled glass. Round-arch side lights frame the doors and are set beneath an oval fanlight with narrow muntins radiating from the center. Slender Ionic columns support the dentiled entablature, and the hardware is silverplated. The exterior has not been altered, although in the process of restoration some of the fabric required stripping, repairing, and/or replacement. The original architectural character has been respected, however. The floor of the lower gallery, for example, was replaced with wood of the same type and thickness.

The floor plan is typical of houses of the period, with wide expanses of space divided by sliding paneled wooden doors. Opposite the entry is the stairwell, with broad steps leading to a landing before continuing to the second floor. From the landing a balcony projects into the library, now called the Trace Room. The rectangular paneled newel post of the stairway supports an original Art Nouveau statue of a female form with a swag containing electrical bulbs. Spiral posts of oak are an integral part of the stairway design and originally supported spandrels of curved wooden fretwork. Oak millwork ornamented with carved oak leaves is a major feature throughout the house. In the restoration, layers of white paint were removed from the woodwork to reveal the natural finish. A scenic window set into the chimney is of exceptional quality. It is not signed and no documentation is known to exist, but comparable windows in Natchez were done by the Tiffany Studios in New York. Brass sconces with flame shades flanking the window are original, as is the hanging brass lantern suspended in the doorway to the library. The brick chimney was originally natural in color but was later painted white. The door to the east veranda has an excellent stained-glass transom and panel in its upper portion.

The parlor/music room is west (right) of the entrance room and large enough to be a ballroom. The pinwheel-design parquet floor with its geometric sections of maple and oak is notable. The west end of the room is angled to form the exterior walls of the octagonal tower. Double-hung windows with single panes are incorporated into the angles. The white marble mantle is adorned with a carved fruit-filled basket and cornucopias. Delicate gilded plasterwork ornaments the ceiling where the crystal chandelier is suspended. Since the furnishings are white and gold, the room is called the Gold Room. The dining room is to the rear of the Gold Room, separated from it by a hallway and furnished with the original golden oak suite. East of the dining room and south of the entry is the library, the dominant feature of which is the photomurals of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Architectural elements include a Palladian window on the east wall, a balcony suspended from the stairwell, and a mantelpiece with Ionic columns and surround of green tile with bas relief details. Butler's pantry, breezeway, and kitchen complete the floor plan of the main level. The butler's pantry is of special interest because of the strip map of the Natchez Trace Parkway mounted on the wall. The breezeway separates the butler's pantry from the kitchen, which has been modernized. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a sitting

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ravennaside is an outstanding example of Neo-Classical residential architecture, complete with original furnishings on the main level. It is also noteworthy as the former home of Roane Fleming Byrnes (1890-1970), internationally known for her promotion of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Ravennaside was built by Mrs. Byrnes' parents, Anna Metcalfe Fleming and James S. Fleming, on land acquired by Anna's father in 1884 (Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book 22:9). The site adjoins the property of Ravenna (ca. 1837), home of the Metcalfe family since 1857. Roane, eldest child of Anna and James, was twelve in 1902 when her family moved from Ravenna into their new house, Ravennaside. In 1917 Roane married Charles Ferriday Byrnes, and they lived with her parents and brother at Ravennaside. In 1943 Mrs. Byrnes inherited the house, which she occupied until her death in 1970.

Mrs. Byrnes became associated with the Mississippi Natchez Trace Association in 1934 and served as president of the organization from 1935 until a few months before her death. On behalf of the Trace, she wrote letters, sent telegrams, entertained--whatever she felt was necessary to promote the Natchez Trace Parkway on local, state, national, and international levels. She was recognized in 1936 for her efforts toward getting a \$500,000 bill for right-of-way purchases through the Mississippi legislature. On May 13, 1938, the Natchez Trace Parkway became a permanent part of the National Park Service. The pen used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to sign the bill into law was sent to Mrs. Byrnes and kept in the Trace Room at Ravennaside. The American Association for State and Local History selected Mrs. Byrnes for an Award of Merit in 1966. The citation read: "For the leadership that led to the creation and development of the Natchez Trace Parkway of the National Park Service."

Mrs. Byrnes was also active in the areas of historic preservation and race relations. She was a charter member of the Natchez Garden Club (1929) and promoted the tour of homes which evolved into the annual Natchez Pilgrimage. She was instrumental in the preservation of Connelly's Tavern, the Priest House, and Lawyers' Lodge. For a woman of her time and place, Mrs. Byrnes was advanced in her view of racial harmony. She made frequent contributions to black churches and worked with the Negro Civic and Business League in Natchez to finance a community center for young blacks. In 1960 she called on her fellow citizens to support the Mary Lynch Fund, which sponsored a young black woman in the Ninth International Games for the Deaf in Helsinki. Mrs. Byrnes stated her philosophy: "I hate those words communism, integration, and segregation. I like the word friendship. That's what we are working for" (Buck Peden, "Down the Middle," Natchez Times, Mar. 19, 1961). At Mrs. Byrnes' funeral service in 1970, black and white members of the clergy formed the cortege.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams Co., Miss. Deed Books 12N, ZZ.

Crocker, Mary Wallace. Inspection of Ravensside, Natchez, Miss., May, 1978.

Jackson, Miss. Department of Archives and History, Statewide Survey File, Ravensside.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 | 6, 5, 1 | 3, 2, 5 | 3, 4 | 9, 1 | 8, 3, 0

B [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

D [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

E [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

F [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

G [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

H [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

[] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

[] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That certain land and real property, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the City of Natchez, County of Adams and State of Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

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 Wallace Crocker, Professor

ORGANIZATION

Memphis State University

DATE

February 7, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Manning Hall

TELEPHONE

901-454-2301

CITY OR TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee 38152

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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 B. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE April 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. [Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-5-79

ATTEST: *Ann H. [Signature]*

DATE 7/3/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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7 - DESCRIPTION

room, in addition to hallways, dressing rooms, and bathrooms. Each of the bedrooms has a mantelpiece faced with tile, and the master bedroom has a niche with a marble lavabo,

Adjacent to the house is an octagonal greenhouse with the year 1907 on the step. A barn, blacksmith shop, and cottage on the rear grounds are older than Ravennaside and are associated with the history of Ravenna, the adjoining property.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Ravennaside was inherited by George Lawrence Adams, who sold it in 1973 to the present owner (Deed Book 12N:479). They have opened the house to visitors, who are made aware of its significance as the former home of Roane Fleming Byrnes. The contribution of the Neo-Classical structure to the local built environment is also apparent, for the architectural heritage of Natchez did not end, as sometimes seems the case in Pilgrimage publicity, with the War Between the States. There are numerous late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century buildings which, like Ravennaside, are unique and eclectic, finished and furnished as superb examples of their time.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Keating, Bern. "Today Along the Natchez Trace," National Geographic 134:641-667.

Peden, Buck. "Down the Middle," Natchez Times, Mar. 19, 1961.

Prevost, Verbie. "Roane Fleming Byrnes: A Critical Biography," Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. of Miss., 1974.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description)

Beginning on the South edge of Ravenna Street, where it is intersected by the old Harrison line; thence by Magnetic courses South 43 and 1/2 degrees West, 122 feet to an iron stake; thence South 22 degrees West 60 feet to an Iron stake; thence one-half way between two out buildings, South 4 degrees East, 24 feet to an Iron Stake; thence South 29 degrees East 300 feet to an Iron Stake; thence South 83 degrees West, 260 feet to an Iron Stake near end of old Dam; thence along the Northern slope of the old Dam; North 58 degrees West, 124 feet to an Iron Stake on a bank; thence North 2 and 1/2 degrees East, 260 feet to the old Harrison line, Six feet from the edge of Union Street; thence along the Old Harrison line North 65 and 3/4 degrees East, 325 feet to the beginning, estimated to contain two (2) acres of land, and being a part of that certain

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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tract or parcel of land known as "Ravenna" as aforesaid. And for further identification of the two (2) acre tract of land herein intended to be conveyed, that certain map or plat of survey made by C. W. Babbit, City and County Surveyor, dated the 15th day of March, 1901, is herein referred to and made a part of this instrument of writing.

Also Lots Forty-three (43), Forty-four (44), Forty-five (45), Forty-Six (46), and Forty Seven (47) of the Harrison Lots, as delineated upon a map of the lands of Mrs. Henrietta Harrison, filed for record July 6th, 1883, and recorded in Book Y.Y., at page 380 of the Records of Deeds of said Adams County, and being the same lots sold and conveyed to Orin Metcalfe et als, in that certain deed of conveyance executed by Henrietta Harrison, et als, on the 26th day of May, 1884, and recorded in Book Z.Z., page 9 of said Records of Deeds; to which said map and deed reference is here made and had for a more particular description and identification of the lots herein intended to be conveyed.

Being the same lands which were conveyed by Richard I. Metcalfe, et al to Anna M. Fleming by Partition Deed dated May 27, 1901 and recorded in Deed Book 3-T at Page 596, of the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Adams County, Mississippi. Being also the same lands which were inherited by Lawrence Adams under and by virtue of the Last Will and Testament of Mrs. Roane F. Byrnes by Will recorded in Will Book 27 at page 610 of the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Adams County, Mississippi.