

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 22 1979

DATE ENTERED

**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
Texada Tavern
AND/OR COMMON
Texada Tavern

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
222 South Wall Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi

CODE
28

COUNTY
Adams

CODE
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
Dr. and Mrs. George W. Moss

STREET & NUMBER
222 South Wall Street

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
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

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

May 28, 1973

___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 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

Built to the street, Texada Tavern, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Wall and Washington streets in Natchez, faces east and is a two-and-a-half story brick dwelling with a steeply pitched roof hipped on all but the northern elevation, which is gabled. The wood-shingled roof is pierced by four interior brick chimneys and three pairs of finely detailed gabled dormers adorned with fluted pilasters and dentiled cornices. On the southern and eastern street elevations, the brick is laid in Flemish bond, while the northern elevation is laid in common bond and the western elevation is stuccoed. The facade is divided into six bays, with the entrance frontispiece occupying the southernmost of the two central bays. The Federal frontispiece, which consists of double-leaf molded six-panel doors set within a richly detailed semicircular fanlight supported by fluted pilasters with molded capitals and bases, was originally the doorway of Burling Hill, a Natchez Federal house demolished in the 1960s. Documentation suggests that the doorway may be the work of the important early Natchez architect Levi Weeks (1776-1819) or his shop (Interview, Mary E. McCahon with Mrs. George Moss, owner, January 8, 1979). All windows of the house contain six-over-six double-hung sash and are closed by solid and louvered shutters. A molded dentiled boxed cornice adorns all elevations of the building. The rear, or western elevation, is fronted with a double-tiered gallery, supported on the first-floor level by brick piers and on the second-floor level by turned wooden columns with molded capitals and bases. The turned columns are joined by rectangular-sectioned balusters and a molded handrail. A wooden exterior staircase, which runs in a single straight flight, connects the upper and lower galleries. Bathrooms have been sympathetically accommodated by enclosing the gallery ends with louvered blinds. The rear doorways of the house, of which those on the second floor are original, are composed of double-leaf doors set within transoms and sidelights set over simply molded panels.

The interior design of the house is basically a double-pile central-hall plan. The rooms of the first floor have ceilings of exposed beaded beams and beaded boards. Most of the woodwork of the first floor is not original, but the period Federal mantelpieces purchased for the house are exceptionally fine. Doors have six molded panels and architrave trim corresponding to that which surrounds the windows. All rooms except the kitchen have molded chair railing and beaded bases. The stair, entered from the front hall, winding to a second-floor stair hall, and continuing in another series of winders to the third floor, features rectangular-sectioned balusters, molded handrail, and a chamfered rectangular newel. The trim on the second story, originally the principal floor of the house, is primarily original and consists of molded bases with single fascia, dentil and molded cornices, molded chair railing, and architrave door and window trim that have double fasciae. The third story retains some of its original paint, and the walls are constructed of matched beaded boards. The rooms feature molded wooden cornices, molded chair rails, and architrave door and window trim. Also included in the nominated property is a two-story stuccoed brick dependency located in the northwestern corner of the enclosed brick-paved courtyard at the rear of the main house.

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 checked="" 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 1793-1805

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Texada Tavern, built 1798-1805, is believed to be the first brick building constructed in Natchez and is one of the oldest extant structures in the town (Natchez Daily Courier, Mar. 7, 1856, p. 2). The building gains further significance as formerly the property of prominent nineteenth-century Natchezians Manuel Garcia de Texada and Edward Turner (Ibid.).

The construction of the first building on the site of Texada Tavern probably began between 1793, when the lot was granted by the Spanish government to Michael Solibellas (Adams Co., Miss. American State Papers, Land Claims, Vol. I:795), and 1798, when the property was sold at public auction and described as containing a house fifty feet long and thirty feet wide, including galleries (Adams Co., Court Records, McBee Collections, Vol. II:348). Manuel Texada acquired the property in 1798 for \$1,000 (Deed Book D:181), but in the city tax assessments for 1805, the house, described as being a "large brick dwelling" measuring sixty feet by forty feet (the measurements of the present structure), was valued at \$12,000 (Samuel Wilson, Jr., ed., "City of Natchez, Assessments in Conformity of an Ordinance of the 17th July 1805," [New Orleans: Samuel Wilson, Jr., 1974, machine copy], n.p.). Since construction evidence indicates that the house was built in at least two major stages (Statement of Samuel Wilson, Jr., Koch and Wilson, 1100 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, La.), Texada may have remodeled and enlarged the Solibellas house, although there is no documentary evidence that the Solibellas house was of brick.

Don Manuel Garcia de Texada was born in Castile, Spain (Margaret A. Moss, photocopy of information identified as being contained in Texas Abstracts), and arrived in the Natchez area about 1781 (Amanda W. Geisenberger, "Texada Tavern," photocopy of typescript of history of Texada Tavern, n.d.). Texada was a lawyer, planter, and tavern keeper, who, by the time of his death in 1817, had bought and sold several plantations and had accumulated a considerable estate (Edith Wyatt Moore, typescript of article published in The Natchez Democrat, July 10, 1932).

An advertisement for a "tayloring"[sic] business indicates that Texada was renting at least a portion of his building as early as 1800 (Green's Impartial Observer, June 14, 1800, p.4). Among the other early tenants was Beaumont's Hotel and City Tavern, which advertised that it was located at Manuel Texada's "large elegant and commodious new brick House." The advertisement further states that the house would be "superior, when finished, to any other in the territory for accommodations (Mississippi Herald and Natchez Gazette, Jan. 22, 1806, p. 3). In 1806 John Callender operated the American Eagle Tavern in the building formerly occupied by Beaumont (Mississippi Herald and Natchez Gazette, Oct. 7, 1806, p. 3).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. American State Papers. Land Claims.

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Court Records. McBee Collections.

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books D, I, II.

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, 7, 1, 0 | 3, 4, 9, 2, 1, 9, 0

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 map 1, block 5, parcel 8.

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

ORGANIZATION

Private consultant

DATE

December 1, 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 B. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 14, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 4-17-79

ATTEST: [Signature]

DATE 4/16/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

In 1817, Edward Turner purchased Texada Tavern (Deed Book I:381). Turner was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of early Natchez. He served as mayor of the city from 1815 to 1819 (D. Clayton James, Antebellum Natchez [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968], p. 95), state attorney general, speaker of the state house of representatives, and chief justice of the state supreme court (James, p. 97). By 1853, when Edward Turner and his wife deeded the house to their daughter, Texada Tavern was described as being a large brick double house (Deed Book II:630), a form retained until the building was restored by Dr. and Mrs. George Moss, who purchased it in 1964 and embarked upon a restoration project that necessitated their living in the rear dependency for eight years. Once again, Texada Tavern can be described as a large elegant commodious brick house. Architects for the renovations were Richard Koch and Samuel Wilson, Jr., of New Orleans.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Geisenberger, Amanda W. "Texada Tavern." Photocopy of typescript of a history of Texada Tavern, n.d.

Green's Impartial Observer, June 14, 1800.

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

Mississippi Herald and Natchez Gazette. Jan. 22, 1806.

_____. Oct. 7, 1806.

Moore, Edith Wyatt. Typescript of an article published in The Natchez Democrat, July 10, 1932

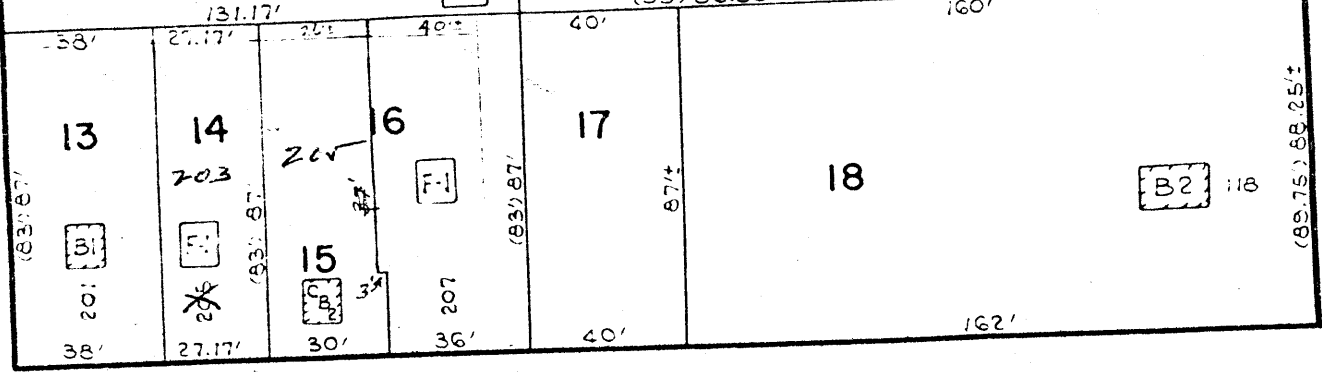
Moss, Mrs. George, owner of Texada. Interviewed by Mary E. McMahon, January 8, 1979.

Moss, Margaret A. Photocopy of information identified as being contained in Texas Abstracts.

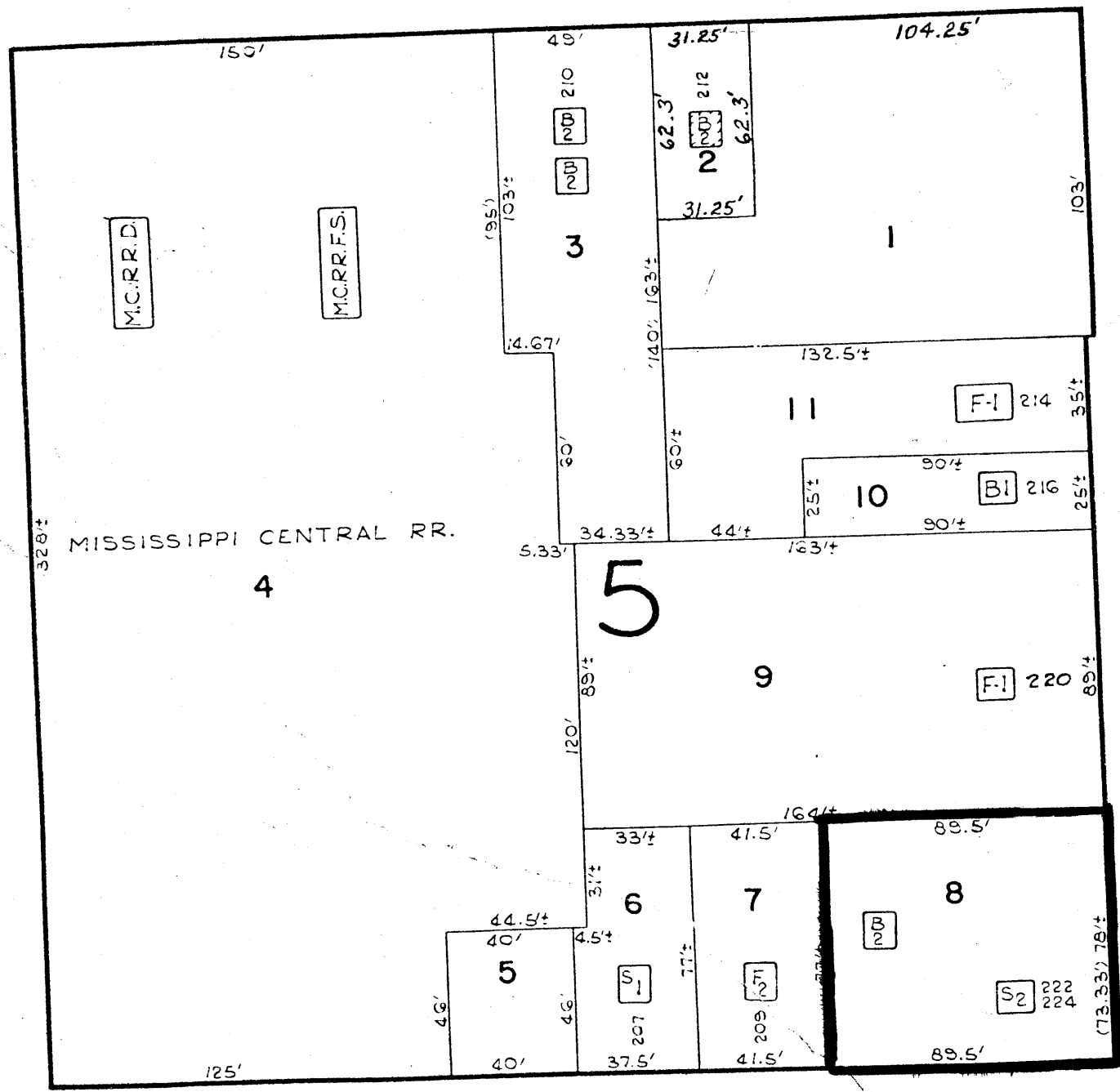
Natchez Daily Courier, Mar. 7, 1856.

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 copy.

Wilson, Samuel, Jr. Koch and Wilson, architects, 1100 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans, La.



STREET



WALL

SOUTH

STREET

Texas
Map 1
Block 5
Parcel 8