

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 23 1979  
DATE ENTERED MAR 7 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

The Manse

AND/OR COMMON

The Presbyterian Manse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

307 South Rankin 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

BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. W. J. Feltus, Sr.; Mr. C. C. Eyrich, Sr.  
Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

✓

STREET & NUMBER

400 State Street, Box 1405

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

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1934

FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20540

# 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

The Manse of the First Presbyterian Church of Natchez is a well-proportioned and exquisitely detailed brick dwelling located on an elevated terraced lot on the northeast corner of Rankin and Orleans streets. Damage from a tornado in 1908 necessitated the regrading and landscaping of the site. Low capped parapets terminate the stuccoed gable ends of the five-bay-by-four-bay structure. In 1900 the exterior was painted red and the upper portion of the southwestern wall was stuccoed. The central bay of the facade, or northwest elevation (locally referred to as westerly), is sheltered by a delicately scaled single-bay pedimented portico carried by slender coupled Tuscan columns originally set on stepped bases. The richly molded entablature of the portico continues across the facade at the eaves, returning at the corners. The frontispiece surrounding the eight-panel entrance door, as well as the door itself, is one of the most elegant and well-executed examples of transitional styling in the region. Graceful fluted columns flanking the spandrel side light panels carry a broken entablature composed of delicate Grecian-profile moldings. The whole is crowned by an oversized elliptical fanlight with radiating tracery set beneath an arched lintel. The latter springs from incised end blocks and is set with a carved keystone. The stone sill is also incised. The plain lintels of the later nearly full-length two-over-four windows of the facade feature end blocks with incised rondel decoration.

About 1847, small recessed hipped-roof wings were added to both the northerly and southerly elevations. Much less ambitious than the original block, the wings have simple corbeled cornices and six-over-six sash windows. The columned gallery sheltering the rear, or easterly, elevation was enclosed in 1947-48 with six-over-six sash windows set between brick piers. Several of the interesting original six-over-nine sash windows with small spandrel panels fixed to the bottom sash are still in place. A single-story single-pile service ell with the cantilevered overhang of the gable roof sheltering the walkway is set off the northeastern corner of the house.

The original interior arrangement of the structure followed the double-pile plan, with the central hall divided by double-leaf eight-panel doors. A handsome centerpiece composed of the Greek meander and anthemion surrounding a large central flower adorns the entrance portion of the hall. No two mantels in the house are identical, and they range from a simple transitional model in the southerly rear room to a handsome one of Italianate marble in the sitting room. Eight-panel doors surrounded by late Federal architraves are used throughout the house. In 1895 the rear room of the northerly side of the house that had served as the dining room was divided into three small service rooms.

Set near the southeasterly corner of the house is a diminutive hip-roofed study built in 1849. The three-bay facade is dominated by an impressive single-bay pedimented portico carried on paneled square columns that shelters the central entrance bay. Completing the monumental detailing is the corresponding full-scale pilastered frontispiece surrounding the two-panel entrance door. The six-over-six sash windows are closed with operable louvered blinds, and a brick-paved terrace links the study to the house.

While none of the nineteenth-century frame outbuildings are extant, a cistern at the southeast corner of the house survives.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

X State

Date: 1978

Depository for Survey Records: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

City: Jackson

State: Mississippi 39205

# 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES**

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Employing exceptionally fine detailing indicative of a full-scale mansion, the Manse of the First Presbyterian Church is one of the most important smaller residences in Natchez. The only documented one-story Federal-style brick dwelling in the state with its original single-bay portico, the Manse features one of the richest and most handsomely detailed frontispieces in a town noted for its elegant doorways. The diminutive Greek Revival study with its pedimented portico, to the southeast of the main house, is a remarkable example of the application of classical vocabulary to an outbuilding. One of the most architectonic outbuildings in the region, it was built in 1849 for the Reverend Doctor Joseph Buck Stratton, who resided in the Manse from 1843 until 1894 (Chisolm, pp. 33, 157). An important local diarist, Stratton's journal, spanning the entire breadth of his sixty years of service to the church and community, is the most valuable and comprehensive chronicle of nineteenth-century Natchez. The dwelling has served as the Presbyterian Manse since 1838.

Thomas Macdannold, an obscure but wealthy man, purchased the lot on the northeast corner of Orleans and Rankin streets in 1832 from Margaret Overaker for \$3,500 (Deed Book T:507). Four years later he sold the property, "designated as the residence of said Thomas Macdannold," to Thomas Henderson, an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, for \$14,320.88 (Deed Book Y:250). The increase in the value of the property, coupled with the transitional architectural styling of the house thereon, suggests that the residence was built for Macdannold. The First Presbyterian Church acquired it as its second manse in 1838 (Deed Book AA:390). Despite the changes necessitated by housing a dozen different ministers and their families, the Manse and its study maintain a remarkable degree of integrity.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books T:507, Y:250, AA:390.

Chisolm, J. Julian. History of the First Presbyterian Church of Natchez, Mississippi.  
Natchez: McDonald's Printers & Publishers, 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 651640 3492110

B         

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2 in square 1 on the northeast corner of South Rankin and Orleans streets, measuring 166 by 240 feet.

## 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 McCahon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

601-354-7326

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 X

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 January 17, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Peterson  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3-7-79

ATTEST: Robert J. Smith  
CLERK OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/5/79