

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675407

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 16 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
Dixon Building
AND/OR COMMON
Dixon's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
514 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Natchez
STATE
Mississippi
VICINITY OF

CODE
28
COUNTY
Adams
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
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 checked="" 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 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
Harriet Shields Dixon
STREET & NUMBER
100 Park Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Natchez
STATE
Mississippi
VICINITY OF

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
1974
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
CITY, TOWN
Jackson
STATE
Mississippi
39205
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 Dixon Building is a two-story rectangular brick commercial building located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Locust streets in downtown Natchez. The gable-roof building is stuccoed on the northerly facade, while easterly and southerly walls and a rear addition are painted brick. The westerly wall is a party wall. The facade is topped with a parapet entablature surmounted by a central ornamented segmental pediment, and is fronted by a double-tiered porch extending over the sidewalk. The porch is supported by slender fluted cast-iron columns connected on the second-floor level by a cast-iron railing of panels of foliate scrolls. Cast-iron filigreed brackets attached to the columns above their capitals meet to form an arcade of segmental arches.

The second-story front wall is scored and divided into four bays of floor-to-ceiling windows filled with two-over-two double-hung sash closed by shutter blinds. The first-story commercial front is divided into four bays consisting of two large display windows set over molded panels, an entrance doorway deeply recessed behind the display windows, and a side doorway in the western end bay leading to the upstairs living quarters. The first-story front wall is adorned with a bracketed cornice supported by three pilasters with molded capitals and bases. The entrance contains double-leaf doors with arched glazed openings set over molded panels. The doorway and the large display windows are topped by large fixed panels of paned glass. The single-leaf side door has an arched glazed opening set above two molded panels and is topped with a double-tiered transom. The eastern elevation of the main building and the 1909 addition are illuminated on the first floor by one full-length window and on the second floor by a series of such windows containing two-over-two double-hung sash and topped by wooden lentils. Small glazed openings set high into the eastern wall on the first-floor level provide additional light. A nineteenth-century painted wooden sign advertising the finishing services of R. S. Dixon is encased in glass and affixed to the eastern elevation.

The interior of the downstairs consists of one large space broken toward the rear by four wooden box columns of the composite order supporting a full entablature. A stairway leading from the side door to the residential area on the second floor runs along the westerly wall in a straight flight with intermediate landing. The stairway, which features turned balusters, terminates in a long hall extending the full length of the building. The four main upstairs rooms have wooden mantels with pilasters and Tudor-arch openings. Ornate cast-iron fireplace covers and cast-iron ceiling centerpieces are notable interior features. The molded bases have two fasciae, the doors and windows have architrave trim, and the doors are four-paneled and molded. The rear addition, sympathetically added in 1909, provides storage and office space on the first-floor level and additional office space upstairs.

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 checked="" 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 1866-72; 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dixon Building is the most architecturally significant of the post-Civil War commercial buildings in downtown Natchez. Its merit is based on extraordinary integrity and a high degree of exterior finish. Founded in 1849 (Joseph French Dixon, grandson of Robert Smith Dixon, interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, research consultant, Natchez, Feb., 1979), Dixon's is the second oldest business firm in Natchez (antedated only by Britton and Koontz First National Bank), and the firm's ledgers and business papers constitute the single most important written source for studying interior decoration of the city's nineteenth-century buildings.

The Dixon Building was constructed between 1866, when Robert Smith Dixon purchased the property (Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book 00:202), and 1872, in which year a newspaper advertisement referred to the "elegant establishment" of R. S. Dixon at 110 Main Street (Natchez Weekly Democrat, Apr. 17, 1872, p. 3), the former address of the building as evidenced in nineteenth-century photographs. Dixon's obituary substantiates the 1866-1872 date of construction by a reference to the large store built by Dixon on Main Street (The Daily Democrat, Oct. 13, 1894, p. 2). Dixon, a native of Scotland, was reared in Canada and came to Natchez as a young man (Dixon). An 1856 newspaper advertisement for the firm of Dixon and Houghton describes the firm's services as "House, Sign, and Ornamental Painters, Imitators of Woods and Marbles, Gilders, Glaziers, Paper Hangers, Wall Colorers" (Natchez Daily Courier, Feb. 29, 1856, p. 2). The Dixon's ledgers and business papers are specific enough in their descriptions of services to date many of the buildings in Natchez as well as to describe paint colors and paper usage in such buildings as the National Historic Landmark houses Stanton Hall and Dunleith (Dixon, Dixon's ledgers and business papers, examined by Mary Warren Miller, Dec., 1978, and Feb., 1979). R. S. Dixon's graining tools are still owned by his grandson (Dixon). In addition to operating a successful business, Dixon served the town as alderman (The Daily Democrat, June 23, 1882, p. 1), examiner for the Natchez Institute (The Natchez Democrat, July 9, 1867, p. 2), vestryman at Trinity Church, fireman, and Masonic leader (The Daily Democrat, Oct. 13, 1894, p. 2).

In 1886, John Foggo Dixon assumed operation of his father's business (The Natchez Democrat, June 16, 1947, p. 1). J. Foggo Dixon enlarged the Dixon Building at the rear in 1909 (Dixon) and continued the successful business operated by his father. He served the town as alderman, captain of the Natchez Fencibles, vestryman at Trinity Church, charter member of the Elks, president and treasurer of the Protection Fire Department, and active Mason (The Natchez Democrat, June 16, 1947, p. 1).

Today, the Dixon Building is owned by Harriet Shields Dixon. Her husband, Joseph F. Dixon, is the grandson of R. S. Dixon, for whom the building was constructed. Throughout his ninety-five years, Mr. Dixon has contributed to the business and civic community of Natchez in the same manner as his father and grandfather did. Mr. Dixon may be best remembered by future generations, however, for his efforts to preserve the physical and cultural history of Natchez, a history in which his family has played a large and vital role.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Natchez Weekly Democrat, Apr. 17, 1872; June 23, 1894.

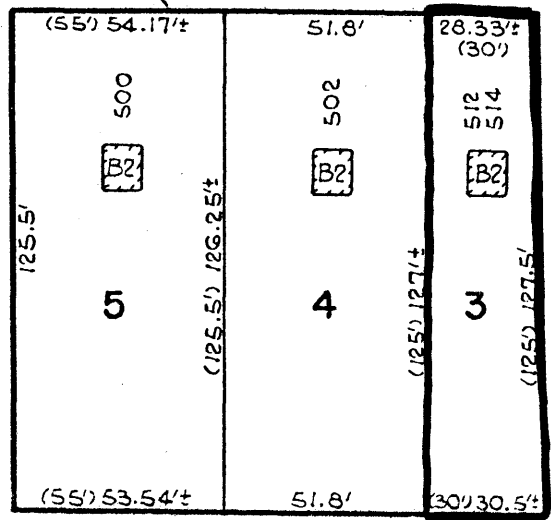
The Daily Democrat [Natchez], Oct. 13, 1894.

The Natchez Democrat, June 16, 1847; July 9, 1867.

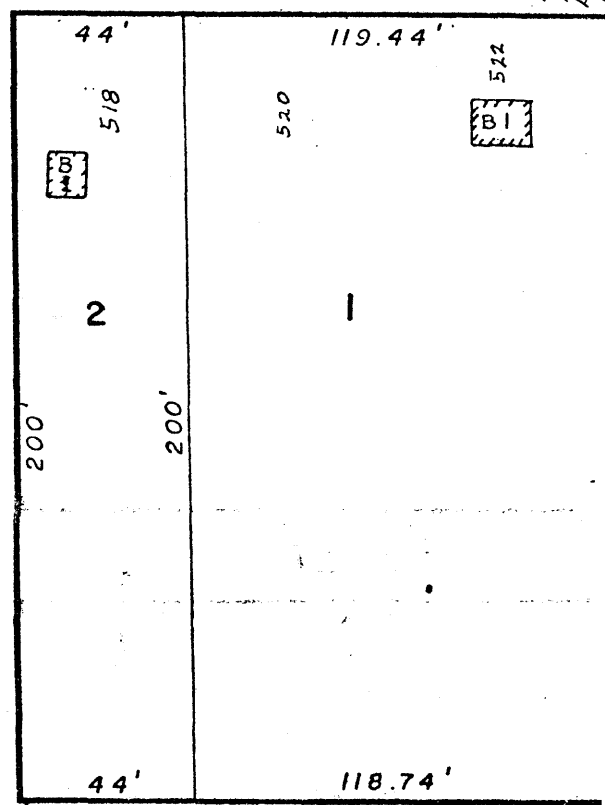
DIXON'S
MAP
BLOCK
CORNER

MAIN

STREET

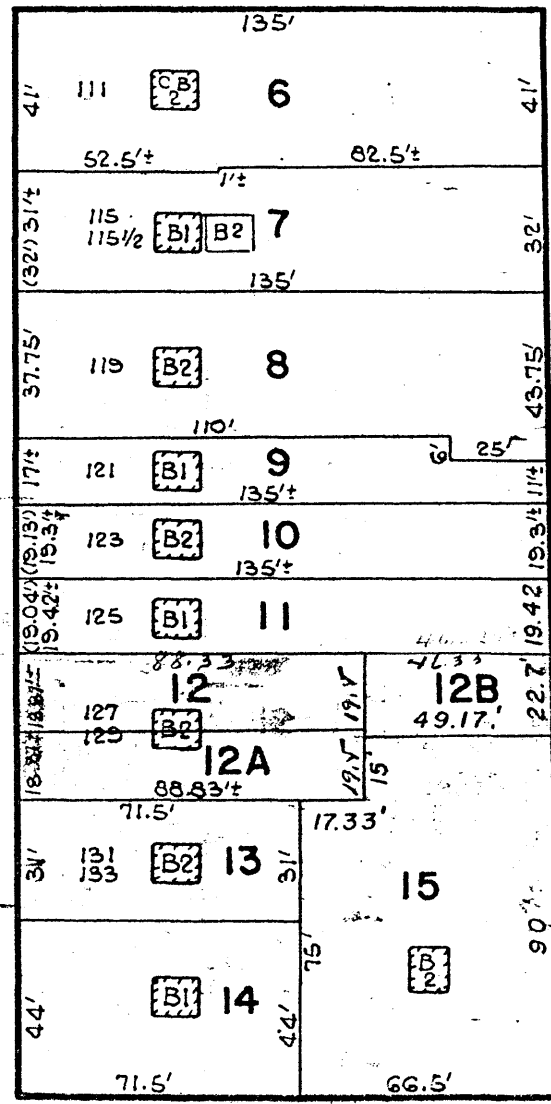


STREET



SYCAMORE

2



3

SYCAMORE ALLEY

COMMERCE

LOCUST

