

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0689602

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 7 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 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  
Myrtle Bank  
AND/OR COMMON  
Myrtle Bank

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
408 North Pearl 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\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL ___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	___ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY ___OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Gandy

STREET & NUMBER  
408 North Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN  
Natchez

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Mississippi 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  
July 17, 1973 \_\_\_FEDERAL STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
Jackson STATE  
Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Myrtle Bank is a story-and-one-half frame gable-end house with a gallery across the front, recessed under the slope of the roof. The site, on a bank high above the street, gave the house its name. A flight of steps set into the bank leads up to a level area at the top on which the house is constructed. A second flight, brick steps with plastered buttresses, replacing earlier ones of wood, leads to the center bay of the five-bay gallery. The house is raised on a brick basement, the front wall of which is pierced by nearly square openings centered under each of the gallery bays flanking the entrance steps. The front slope of the roof is dominated by three pedimented dormer windows which, with two windows in the gable ends, give abundant light to the attic story. A nearly flat-roofed gallery is centered on the north (side) elevation of the house. A gallery centered on the rear of the house has been enclosed.

The mass and excellent proportions of the house are typical of many Natchez houses of the 1830s, but alterations of the 1870s have given the house much of the character of the later period. The gallery columns, railings, and entablature are in that style rather than in the classical mode of the 1830s. Square chamfered columns have pedestal bases formed by moldings at the height of the jigsaw-patterned railings. Cap moldings near the tops of the columns support a flat arch-shaped jigsaw-cut board beneath the entablature. A large scroll bracket above each column supports a bracketed cornice. The cornice continues around the north side gallery, but there the columns and the brackets above them are doubled.

On the facade, the doorway is surrounded by a band of heavy moldings with a molded cornice across the top. Tall narrow side lights are separated from the glazed double doors and transom by slender pilasters. The side lights are glazed with panes of etched patterned glass. Double-hung windows at each side of the entrance doorway have hinged panels below the small paned sash and undoubtedly date from the 1830s period of the house. The sash in the end opening to the left has been changed to a pair of glazed French doors with twelve lights in each leaf. These four openings, as well as the openings in the end walls of the house, have shutters with fixed louvers. The front wall of the house on the gallery is of flush boards with large V-joints, providing a rusticated effect. The other exterior walls, as well as the sides of the dormers, are weatherboarded.

The house has a wide central hall with two rooms on each side. The fireplaces are in the wall between these two rooms. Cast-iron mantels are in the two front rooms, while the two rear rooms have simple wood mantels, all in the style of the 1870s renovations. The front room to the right has an interesting cornice with decorative moldings top and bottom. Interior doors and trim, as well as the wood mantels and trim of the two finished rooms in the attic, appear to reflect an 1850s renovation. The stairway at the rear of the hall has turned newels and balusters. A hidden back stairway leading from the upper floor to the back of the house where the kitchen was located indicates that the upper floor was occupied by servants. These steps can be seen from the attic to the place at which the stairs originally descended to the main floor, but the outside portion of the stairway was removed when the back gallery was enclosed in the 1870s or 1880s.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Myrtle Bank is an impressive Spanish-Colonial style cottage with earliest portions dating to before 1817; major existing portions dating to 1835; and exterior trim and side gallery dating to the 1850s or 1870s. Named for the high ridge on which it stands, Myrtle Bank occupies an original Spanish land grant surveyed by Sir William Dunbar and awarded to George Overaker in 1795 for the purpose of building a house thereon. It was reputedly the site of U. S. surveyor Andrew Ellicott's encampment in 1797 (Natchez Courier, June 1, 1849). Overaker, subsequently the owner of both Hope Farm and Hawthorne in Natchez, built Myrtle Bank prior to 1818, probably in the Spanish style of a one-story frame house with raised basement encircled by brick pillars.

Alfred Cochran and his wife, Eliza, great-granddaughter of William Dunbar, purchased Myrtle Bank for \$3,000 in 1835 (Deed Book W:291) and enlarged the house to the present classical lines of the one-and-one-half story house with wide gallery across the front and three tall dormer windows in the upper story. In 1836 the Cochrans purchased the northwest lot of the square, enlarging the grounds to half the square. At Alfred's death, Eliza's mother, Anne Dunbar Postlethwaite, bought Myrtle Bank for \$12,000, adding to it the two south lots of the square which she had inherited from her grandfather, Sir William Dunbar (Deed Books BB:525, P:152). Myrtle Bank then occupied the entire square and continued to do so for twenty-five more years.

Some alterations and embellishments were undertaken at Myrtle Bank in the 1850s, probably by wealthy planter Benjamin Wade, who purchased the property in 1856 (Deed Book LL:151). At Wade's death in 1858, the house and grounds were leased as The Natchez Young Ladies Institute, a boarding and day school offering mathematics, ancient languages, philosophy, English literature, universal history, drawing, painting, and music. The school closed in the summer of 1861, and during the next forty years, the grounds were again divided into several lots. Descendants of Benjamin Wade sold Myrtle Bank in the early 1870s (Deed Book UU:71), after which additional remodeling took place.

In 1957 the present owner purchased Myrtle Bank and proceeded to return it to its nineteenth-century state by removing screens from porches; painting, plastering, and repairing both exterior and interior; and refinishing the original heart pine floors on the main floor. In 1969 the northwest lot was purchased, so that Myrtle Bank occupies half the square today.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books.

Vidalia, La. Concordia Intelligencer. Miscellaneous issues, Armstrong Library, Natchez, Miss., and Concordia Parish Courthouse, Vidalia, La.

Natchez, Miss. Natchez Courier. Miscellaneous issues, Armstrong Library, Natchez, Miss.

# 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 | 6,5,18,0,5 | 3,4,9,2,9,4,5

B      |      |     

    ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C      |      |     

D      |      |     

E      |      |     

F      |      |     

G      |      |     

H      |      |     

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Myrtle Bank occupies Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Square 5 (Natchez-Adams County Tax Map #8), being bound on the east by Pearl Street, on the north by Monroe Street, on the west by Wall Street, and on the south extending 157 feet from Monroe Street to Lot 10, owned by

## 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

Joan W. Gandy (Mrs. Thomas H.)

ORGANIZATION

Owner of Myrtle Bank

DATE

September 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

408 North Pearl Street

TELEPHONE

601-442-4090

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

*Arthur A. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 3, 1978

## 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 12-22-78

ATTEST: *JANET ELLMORE*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/22/78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6, 7,10 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: Adams County Landmarks Inventory  
Date: 1974-1978    County    Local  
Depository for  
Survey Records: Natchez Metropolitan Planning Commission  
City: Natchez State: Mississippi 39120

7 - DESCRIPTION

The grounds around the house, planted in large oaks, at one time occupied the entire square. A gazebo built in the 1870s or 1880s and moved to a neighboring yard in the 1920s is being readied for return to its original position in the northeast section of the grounds, the foundation having been located by the present owners.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Mrs. O. L. Wiley; Lot 7, owned by Mrs. Thomas H. Gandy; Lot 6, owned by Mrs. F. L. Smith; and Lot 5, owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lehmann. A copy of Natchez-Adams County Tax Map #8, with Myrtle Bank outlined in red thereon, is enclosed.

