

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 4 SEP 1979 NOV 8 1979  
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Roos House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

208 Linton Avenue

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION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
<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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Gill Smith

STREET &amp; NUMBER

208 Linton Avenue

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 &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1979

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCALDEPOSITORY 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		

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

Located at 208 Linton Avenue in Natchez, the Roos House is a two-story frame Victorian house set upon a brick basement that is fully raised at the rear. The first story is finished with clapboards, but the second story is finished with shingle siding in an imbricated pattern. The window sash are primarily one-over-one double-hung sash that are closed by original exterior blinds; however, casement windows with leaded glass and fixed windows with leaded and stained glass are also used to illuminate and decorate the house. The multigabled roof is pierced by two interior brick chimneys and the cornice is bracketed on all sides.

The main gabled projection of the house facade is fronted by a one-story Colonial Revival porch with fluted Corinthian columns supporting a flat roof which is used as an upper porch. The upper porch is railed by turned balusters that link paneled pedestals located over each Corinthian column. A tripart window is located in the pedimented front gable. The main, or formal, entrance to the interior is located on the recessed wall to the north of the projection and features an elaborate leaded-glass oak door set beneath a bracketed hood. An additional side entrance is provided on the southerly elevation, and, like the main entrance door, this side oak door, with a single panel of beveled glass and movable transom, is set beneath a bracketed hood.

The interior of the Roos House is elaborately trimmed in the first-floor formal areas. The doors and windows have symmetrically molded surrounds that support a molded decorated cornice. The bases have double fasciae and are molded; and dados of molded panels adorn the entrance hall, stair walls, and dining room. The dining room is also decorated by symmetrically molded ceiling beams forming coffers, and by a Victorian mantelpiece with an over-mantel mirror, the most elaborate of the house.

The stairway leads from the reception hall through the central opening of a triple arch to a wide landing on the northerly wall and splits into two returning flights to the second floor. The easterly upper flight was sympathetically altered by the Engles to accommodate an additional bathroom on the second floor. An elevator located in the service hall downstairs was also installed during the Engle residency.

The upstairs and kitchen areas of the Roos House are more plainly trimmed with symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks. An unusual mantelpiece of Art Nouveau design is located in an upstairs bedroom. Incorporated into the design of the mantel is a full-length beveled-glass side mirror.

# 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 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 Ca. 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roos House is one of the finest examples of early twentieth-century residential architecture in Natchez. The Colonial Revival and Art Nouveau detailing of the house is so well and unusually executed that it sets the house apart from its contemporary Victorian counterparts. The house is also symbolic of the rise to prominence of the Jewish community in Natchez, a Southern town that was culturally, socially, intellectually, and economically dominated by its Jewish citizens from the post-Civil War years to the Great Depression.

The Roos House was constructed on land purchased in 1901 by Mrs. Julius (Miriam) Roos from the Clifton Land and Improvement Corporation (Adams County, Mississippi, Deed Book 3V:489). This corporation, headed primarily by wealthy Jewish citizens, began what was probably the first corporate development of a residential neighborhood in Natchez. Clifton Heights, surveyed in 1888 (Deed Book 3C:244), is located on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and was named for the ca. 1820 mansion, Clifton, that was destroyed by the Union Army in 1863 (William Banks Taylor, King Cotton and Old Glory: Natchez, Mississippi in the Age of Sectional Controversy and Civil War [Hattiesburg, Miss.: Fox Printing Company, 1977], p. 52). This late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century development is today the most outstanding neighborhood in Natchez in terms of architectural integrity.

Julius Roos, like most other prominent Natchez Jewish citizens of ca. 1900, was the child of parents who immigrated to Natchez from Europe in the 1840s. His father, Aaron Roos, was a successful merchant who came to Natchez in 1848 from Alsace (The Daily Democrat, Jan. 3, 1894, p. 2). Almost without exception, the Victorian mansions which line the two parallel streets, Linton and Clifton, of Clifton Heights were constructed by second-generation Jewish merchant families (Mrs. Cassius L. Tillman, an elder member of the Jewish community, interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, research consultant, Natchez, Feb. 21, 1979).

In 1914, the Roos House was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Engle (Deed Book 4E:187). Engle was a prominent Natchez attorney, and Mrs. Engle was the granddaughter of Joseph N. Carpenter, who resided at Dunleith, a National Historic Landmark (Alma K. Carpenter, interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, research consultant, Natchez, Feb. 21, 1979). The Engles resided in the Roos House until Mrs. Engle's death in 1968, when the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Gill Smith, the present owners (Deed Book 11D:223). Only in recent years has the town of Natchez, long noted for its antebellum mansions, begun to appreciate its post-Civil War architecture, and the Roos House is but the second such residential building in Natchez to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 3C, 3V, 4E, 11D.

Carpenter, Alma K. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, research consultant, Natchez, at Natchez, Feb. 21, 1979.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**DATA NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

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

B      |      |     

C      |      |     

D      |      |     

E      |      |     

F      |      |     

G      |      |     

H      |      |     

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached xerox of city tax map with nominated property outlined in red. Nominated property is located on map 10, block 4, parcel 18.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Warren Miller

Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Private Consultant

DATE

February 20, 1979

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

August 23, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11-8-79

ATTEST:

Carol A. Burke  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/7/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

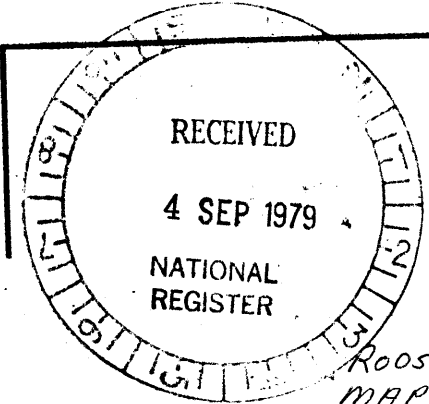
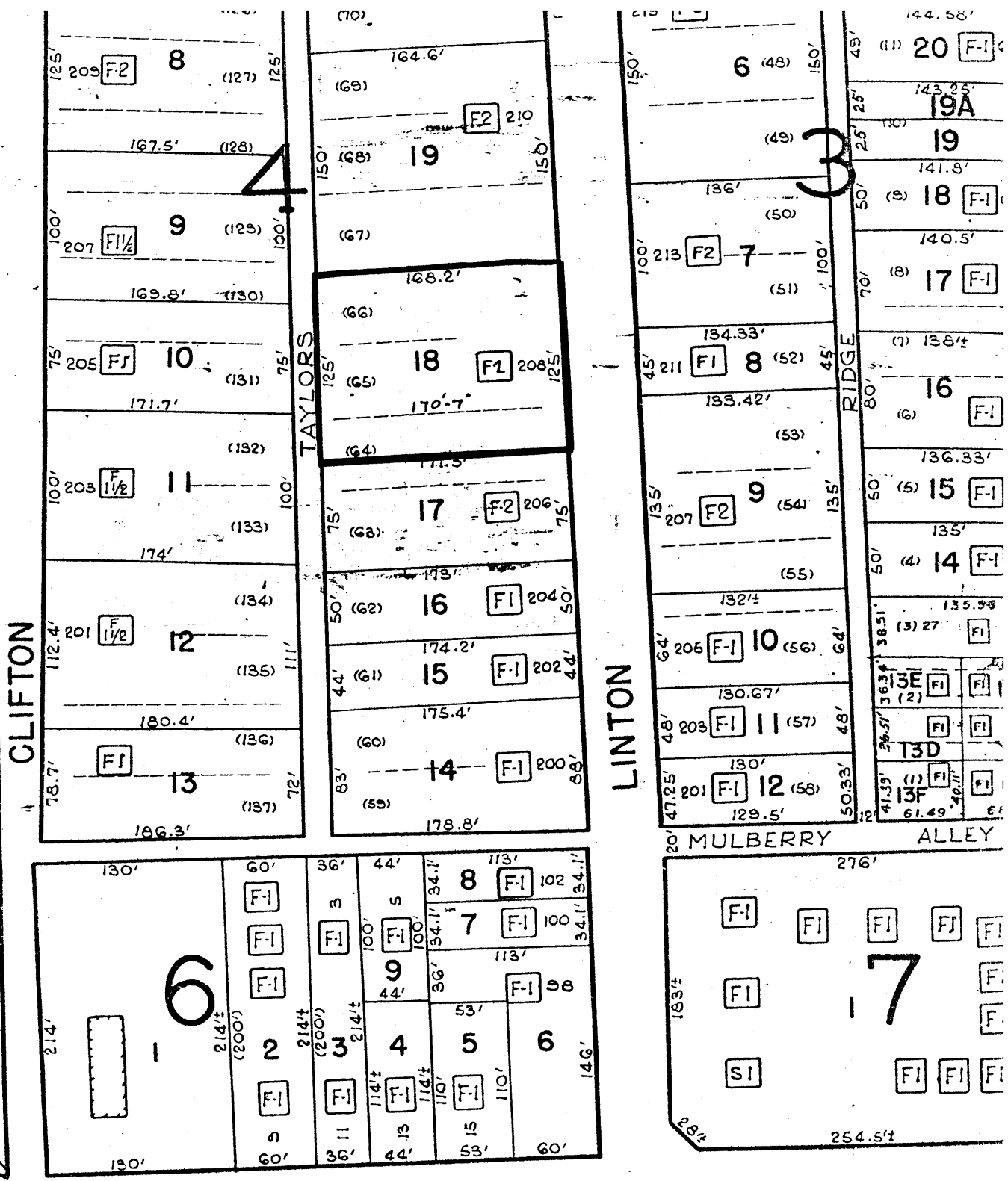
9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Taylor, William Banks. King Cotton and Old Glory: Natchez, Mississippi in the Age of Sectional Controversy and Civil War. Hattiesburg, Miss.: Fox Printing Co., 1977.

The Daily Democrat, Jan. 3, 1894.

Tillman, Mrs. Cassius L. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, research consultant, Natchez, at Natchez, Feb. 21, 1979.

EDS' ROAD  
MILL ROAD



Roos House  
MAP 10  
BLOCK 4  
PARCEL 18