

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 18 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 29 1975

**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 McNutt House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NW corner of First East and Monroe streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

28

Warren

149

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 checked="" 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

Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 254

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Warren County Courthouse, Office of Chancery Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 351

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Vicksburg

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Governor Alexander G. McNutt House is a simple two-story frame structure situated on the corner of First East and Monroe Streets, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Although the large half-acre lot provides an unusually spacious setting, the pronounced western slope of the land dictated location of the dwelling at its extreme southwest corner. A main block, with large chimneys exposed on the gabled ends, is attached to a lower rear ell, forming an L-shaped plan. Built according to practical considerations of economy and utility, the McNutt House lacks the sophistication of a formal, well-calculated design. Prime contributors to the haphazard arrangement of the facade are the two entrances, with flanking pilasters supporting entablatures and pediments which were installed in the early years of this century. Originally, a single door was located in place of the extreme right, or eastern, window. While retaining their original locations on the facade, the double-hung windows appear to have been made slightly wider when the rear wing was added in about 1832. Other enrichments of this severe elevation are limited to the beaded endposts and the shallow, returned cornice.

The main section of the house is divided into two rooms of equal dimension on both levels and has an enclosed gallery running the length of the rear elevation. Each room is serviced with a coal-burning fireplace and a marbleized, cast-iron mantel installed during the late 1850s. Dating from the same period are the interior architraves, cornices, and doors, except for a single doorway on the second floor, the fine Federal backband of which appears to be original with the 1826 section. The rear wing, containing a dining room, kitchen, and two bedchambers upstairs, was added in 1832 and completely retrimmed with Greek Revival moldings and cast-iron mantels in the late 1850s. When the house was converted into apartments in about 1915, a second-floor bedroom was converted into a living area and a Colonial Revival mantel, with columns and a mirrored over-mantel, was installed. At the same time an interior stair was added in the wing to give direct access to the second level from the outside.

*Gallery enclosed this century, date of
gallery unknown according to
Wm C. Allen.*

*LEWIS
-575*

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Ross in 1827, it was described as a "half lot of ground with a dwelling house therein now in tenure or possession of Belfield Green" (Deed book D, p. 189). After the lot changed hands again, Alexander G. McNutt paid \$900 for the small four-room house and took possession on May 18, 1829 (Deed book E, p. 145). During McNutt's ten-year ownership, he increased the property to a half-acre with the purchase of lot seven and the remaining half of lot eight. He also constructed the rear wing, and enlarged the windows to their current dimensions. These activities increased McNutt's taxable wealth from \$1,200 in 1830 to \$4,000 five years later (Personal tax rolls, Warren County, 1830, 1831, 1833, 1834, 1835). With these alterations and additions, the house and property assumed the form that exists today.

In July, 1839, eighteen months after he was inaugurated as governor, McNutt sold lots seven and eight to Hugh Dunlap and moved permanently to the state capitol at Jackson (Deed book N, p. 428). To satisfy Dunlap's creditors, the house was sold at an auction in 1844 to Hamilton Wright of New Orleans, who bid \$200 for the property (Deed book T, p. 100). The house continued to be the residence of Wright's descendants until 1965, at which time the Mississippi Historic Foundation of Vicksburg acquired the property (Deed book 404, p. 494). A limited exterior restoration is planned for the house until such time as the title may be passed to private owners willing to undertake a more thorough restoration.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Warren County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed books, E, D, J, N, T, 178, 296, 392, 404. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Newspapers

Jackson (Miss.) Mississippian, November 3, 10, 1848.

Vicksburg (Miss.) Tri-Weekly Whig, October 10, 1848.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891. Reprint. Wooster, Ohio: Micropublishers. Bell and Howell, 1973.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foote, Henry S. Casket of Reminiscences. Washington: Chronicle Publishing Company, 1874.

Moss, Warner to Elbert R. Hilliard, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, May 25, 1974. Statewide Survey File, Warren County, "Old Gov. McNutt Residence," Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Moss, Warner. "Governor McNutt House in Vicksburg, Mississippi," November 25, 1973. Statewide Survey File, Warren County, "Old Gov. McNutt Residence."

Rowland, Dunbar. Mississippi: Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form. 3 vols. Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907.

_____. Official and Statistical Register. Nashville: Press of the Brandon Printing Co., 1908.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McNutt House is one of the oldest extant structures in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and the only surviving residence in the state associated with Alexander Gallatin McNutt (1801-1848), twelfth governor of Mississippi. Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, McNutt graduated from Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, before moving to Mississippi in 1824. After a brief stay in Jackson, McNutt established a law practice in Vicksburg and later acquired plantations in Washington and Warren counties. Among his holdings, the 4,000-acre plantation known as Walnut Hills, owned jointly with Joel Cameron, was the most substantial. In 1832, Cameron was murdered on the plantation by slaves, and within a year McNutt had married his widow, Elizabeth Lewis Cameron, and purchased remaining interests to the plantation from the heirs. Typical of many planters of the period, McNutt never established a residence on any of his plantations, preferring instead to live in the more politically and socially active atmosphere of Vicksburg (Warner Moss to Elbert R. Hilliard, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, May 24, 1974).

McNutt began his political career in 1835 when he was elected to a term in the state senate, over which he briefly presided as president in 1837. Entered in the gubernatorial election of 1837, McNutt was supported by the enemies of banking privileges within the state and succeeded in defeating two Whig opponents by a comfortable margin. He was reelected two years later. The McNutt administration was noted for the battles it waged against the Planter's and Union banks, which were accused of mismanagement and corrupt practices. As a consequence of the governor's extreme position, the state refused to pay the bonds which it had issued only a few years earlier to establish capital for the infant banks. This policy earned McNutt the name of "The Great Repudiator" and left Mississippi, which had itself become a large holder of bank bonds, totally bankrupt and without credit. After leaving the governorship, McNutt briefly retired from public life but soon reappeared as an unsuccessful candidate for the United States Senate. He died in 1848 while touring the northern counties of the state as a candidate for presidential elector.

Although altered, the McNutt House remains one of the oldest surviving dwellings in Vicksburg. In April, 1822, Washington Cook paid thirty-five dollars to the estate of Newit Vick for lot eight in square two in the town of Vicksburg, Mississippi (Warren County Deed book E, p. 126). Four years later he divided the lot, sold the western quarter acre to William Pescod for fifty dollars (Deed book D, p. 138), and erected a two-story frame dwelling house on the remaining land. When the property passed to Isaac I.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

Official Records

Mississippi. Auditor of Public Accounts. Personal tax rolls, Warren County, 1830, 1831, 1833, 1834, 1835. Official Archives of the State of Mississippi, Record Group 29, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Microfilm.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

2/11/76 OK NF

UTM REFERENCES

A | 15 | 6995⁸⁰ | 3581560 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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: William C. Allen, Architectural Historian DATE: March 6, 1975
 ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History TELEPHONE: (601) 354-6218
 STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 571 CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: Elmer B. Hilliard DATE: March 14, 1975
 TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. R. Mortensen DATE: 5/29/76
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: Charles H. ... DATE: 5/23/75
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER