

PH0660221

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 12 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 5 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 Dr. Dubs Townhouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 311 North Pearl Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Natchez CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fourth
STATE Mississippi VICINITY OF Fourth
CODE 28 COUNTY Adams CODE 001

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	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 Mr. and Mrs. William C. McGehee
STREET & NUMBER 311 North Pearl Street
CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF Mississippi 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 Statewide Survey of Historic Sites
DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated close to the sidewalks on a corner lot in downtown Natchez, the Charles H. Dubs Townhouse is a two-story rectangular building of brick construction with a low, metal-shingled roof almost hidden on the front and sides by a simple brick parapet. A corbeled brick cornice decorates the facade on the northerly side. The three-bay facade is further elaborated by a water table and is laid with extremely regular bricks in an all-stretcher pattern with narrow, finely cut mortar joints. The other walls are laid with common brick in a common bond. The window openings, trimmed with plain wood lintels and sills, are fitted with six-over-six sash and exterior blinds. The southerly bay of the facade contains the entrance, trimmed with a molded wood frame and filled with a single-panel door and a rectangular transom, both set between narrow side lights and panels. An inset double gallery on the back is enclosed on the northerly end by an original extension of the side wall. Scratched into the bricks on the end of that side wall is the inscription "Built 1852." To give room for bathrooms on the interior, the portion of the back gallery adjoining the side wall has been enclosed with jalousies set over panels. The panels are based on those found in place when early twentieth century additions to the back gallery were removed in 1976. The remaining area of the back gallery is given over to an attached wing with one room on each of two stories. This rear wing has a hip roof and an inscription, "1854/Built By C. H. Dubs/1854," scratched into the northerly brick wall. A second wing was added to the house on the southerly side in 1976 to accommodate a kitchen and an apartment. This unobtrusive, one-story brick wing is set back from the front wall of the house.

The rooms on the interior of the early parts of the house are high-ceilinged, almost cubical spaces. Double parlors on the first floor, located to the north of the side hall, are embellished by two matching Greek Revival mantelpieces on the northerly wall and are connected by a pair of tall sliding doors. A door with transom, set in the back wall, gives access to a bath located on the original back gallery, and a similar door at the back of the hall opens onto the dining room in the back wing. The dining room has a Greek Revival mantelpiece on the southerly wall and a glazed and paneled door with transom on the easterly wall. A straight flight of stairs leads up from the back of the hall to a small room at the front of the upper hall and to other rooms corresponding to those below.

Throughout the interior the doors, windows, and mantelpieces have the same trim, which consists of a floor-length, eared architrave with a plain, flat backband. Molded panels are set beneath the windows. Doors have two vertical panels with ogee moldings. "Ogee and angle" moldings surmount the double-faced baseboards. The baseboards and the mantelpieces are painted in imitation of black marble. The doors, underwindow panels, and staircase are grained to imitate oak or cypress on the frames, and maple on the panels.

About twelve feet behind the rear wing is a detached, two-story brick kitchen with parapet end walls and a northerly facing wooden balcony set beneath the gable roof. Attached to the easterly end is a shed-roofed frame addition containing a small modern kitchen and stairs leading to the only upper room in the brick portion. In the single lower room of the brick portion is a large

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1852, 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. Dubs Townhouse is significant for its historical association with the original owner, Dr. Charles H. Dubs, a locally prominent inventor and dental surgeon. It is also significant as a rare example in Natchez of the Northern townhouse form, with excellent craftsmanship evident in the brickwork and with an unusually complete scheme of interior decorative painting, recently restored.

The house was constructed in 1852 (see Physical Description) for Dr. Charles H. Dubs (Dec. 27, 1809-Mar. 25, 1873) on land he had purchased the previous year.¹ Dubs had come to Natchez from his native Philadelphia about 1840, probably via New Orleans, where his daughter had been born in 1836.² Obtaining recommendations from leading citizens and physicians of the area, he had opened an office on South Union Street.³ By May of 1846, he had moved his office to a recently purchased residence at 506 High Street.⁴ He traveled to the North in 1847 and 1850, the latter trip probably in connection with his expressed intention to open agencies in major Northern cities to market "his own newly invented and patented 'Compound Union Screw Forceps' for the extraction (without injury to the jaw) of hollow roots."⁵ Only after the 1854 addition of the rear wing and kitchen to his 1852 townhouse did Dubs advertise that his office and residence were located on the corner of Pearl and High streets, where he continued to reside until 1870. In that year he sold the property and moved up High Street to a house on the northeast corner facing North Union Street.⁶ There he died, owning this residence, a store on the corner of Main and Pearl streets in Natchez, a lot in the suburbs of St. Louis, and other estate valued at about \$7,000.⁷ His heirs included his widow, Margaret L. Dubs, and a brother, Dr. Samuel R. Dubs of Philadelphia.⁸

Dr. Dubs chose for his 1852 house the townhouse form common to his native Philadelphia but unusual to Natchez, where most town residences were set back from the street with a central entrance shaded by a front gallery or portico. Unlike most houses in Natchez but like many in Philadelphia, the facade derives its richness primarily from the high quality of the brickwork. In Natchez, similar brickwork is found only at the mansion Melrose, a National Historic Landmark. On the interior, the original decorative plan involving ingraining and marbling prevails on all woodwork except window and door surrounds. Such a complete scheme, rarely seen in surviving Mississippi houses, is a reproduction of the original, as found on the interior of an upper hall closet door that was never painted over, and as revealed through

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books; Probate Papers; Will Books.

Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette.

Natchez Daily Courier.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 651790 3492850
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property constitutes parcel 2 of Block 13 on City Tax Map 8 and is a roughly rectangular lot with a 75-foot westerly front on North Pearl Street and a 142-foot northerly side on High Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald W. Miller, Site Administrator

ORGANIZATION

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

DATE

October 17, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard

TELEPHONE

(601) 446-6502

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

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

Ronald W. Miller

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 9, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5-5-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

W. H. Miller
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

W. H. Miller
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-26-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6,7,&8 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Adams County Landmarks Inventory
In progress 1977 x county
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

7 - DESCRIPTION

cooking fireplace. Beneath the balcony, a pair of hinged cellar doors opens to steps leading down to a small basement room. The brick of the kitchen, laid in an all-stretcher pattern on the northerly side and in a common bond on the others, are oversized like those of the rear wing of the house.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

a careful removal of paint on the woodwork in the rest of the house. The work was done in 1976 by Malcolm Robson, the London grainer responsible for the work at the Gallier House in New Orleans and the Philadelphia Athenaeum. Mr. Robson compared the surviving work at the Dubs House with that at Stanton Hall, across the street, pronounced them the best he had seen in the United States, and attributed them to the same hand. The grainer at Stanton Hall was identified in an 1858 newspaper account as John Wells.⁹

Notes

¹Tombstone, Charles H. Dubs; Deed Book HH:646.

²Tombstone, Charles H. Dubs; Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, September 27, 1845, p. 1; Tombstone, Medora Ann Dubs Butler.

³Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, August 18, 1844, p. 3.

⁴Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, May 23, 1846, p. 1;
Deed Book EE:542.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 2

⁵Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, October 5, 1847, p. 1;
Ibid., August 19, 1848, p. 1; Ibid., September 29, 1849, p. 4; Ibid., September
18, 1850, p. 1.

⁶Natchez Daily Courier, May 19, 1855, p. 1; Deed Book QQ:312; Probate Papers,
Box 219, Estate of Charles H. Dubs.

⁷Probate Papers, Box 219, Estate of Charles H. Dubs.

⁸Will Book 4:23.

⁹Natchez Mississippi Free Trader, April 5, 1858, p. 1.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Natchez Mississippi Free Trader.

Tombstones, Natchez City Cemetery.