National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Name 1.

historia

2. Location				х
street & number	brater	+ h.d.		not for publication
i ty, town Natchez		vicinity of	congressional district	Fourth
tate Mississippi	code	28 county	Adams	code]
3. Classifica	tion			
Category Ownership	juisition ess	Status _X_ occupied _X_ unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted _X_ yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation
being o		no	_X_ military	other:
·		no	military	·····
I. Owner of	Proper	no		
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depository for survey records

city, town

7. Description

Condition		Check one
x excellent	X deteriorated	<u>X</u> unaltered
X good	ruins	<u>X</u> altered
x fair	unexposed	

Check one _X_ original site ____ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: The Cemetery Bluff District occupies a rolling and terraced terrain located more than 200 feet above the Mississippi River and is separated from the river by steep bluffs, the jagged edges of which form the district's western boundary, and by the low-lying lands beneath the bluffs which form the river bank. The fine, loose loess soil of the district area is cut by deep ravines, or bayous as they are locally called, which are a topographical characteristic of the Natchez area. Bayous form a natural boundary for portions of the district at its eastern perimeter. Steep banks, especially within the Natchez City Cemetery, have been terraced to counteract the erosion problems of the loess soil (photo 26). In addition, Weymouth Hall (photo 4), one of the most outstanding of the Natchez Greek Revival mansions, is seriously threatened by unchecked erosion of the bluff upon which it majestically sits. The jagged edges of the steep bluffs, the gently rolling hills, the steep terraced banks, the deep, overgrown bayous, and the spectacular view of the Mississippi River (photos 7, 24) all combine to create a district of unsurpassed natural beauty in the state of Mississippi.

STREET PLAN: The Cemetery Bluff District contains only one public thoroughfare which is Cemetery Road. Although the inventory of the district lists some of the addresses as Maple Street, this is primarily a postal differentiation between the portion of Cemetery Road that is located in the county and the portion of the road within the city limits. The southern section of Cemetery Road within the corporate limits of the City of Natchez uses Maple Street as its mailing address. The paved avenues within the Natchez City Cemetery follow no master plan and developed as functions of the different sections of the cemetery as they were acquired over a long period of time by the city. The grassed avenues within the individual plats are laid out in a grid pattern. There are no avenues within the National Cemetery except for a paved circular drive at the cemetery entrance and one paved drive leading from the circular drive to the maintenance area of the cemetery.

STREET PLANTING: No formal street planting of trees exists along Cemetery Road, and the road draws most of its shade from the trees located in the yards of the houses along the side of the road. The main paved entrance drive of the Natchez City Cemetery, which is entered at gate 3, features an avenue of live oaks which appear to have been planted in the early 20th century (photo 4).

STRUCTURAL DENSITY, TYPES, AND FACADE LINES: The structural density characteristic of Cemetery Road in the mid-19th century (photo 1) has been altered by the construction of a neighborhood of primarily early 20th century residences on the western side of Cemetery Road. The structural density on the eastern side of Cemetery Road has changed little since the mid-19th century. The National Cemetery was established in 1867 and the Natchez City Cemetery has expanded westward to the edge of Cemetery Road. Overall, the structural density would be considered low with the highest concentration of buildings being located on the western side of Cemetery Road. The district derives its greatest significance from its natural beauty and its park-like character. The buildings are primarily residential except for Lewis Barbecue at 800 Maple Street and an abandoned commercial building at 802 Maple Street, both of which are listed as intrusions in the district inventory. All buildings retain their original functions except for the powder magazine. Although no longer used for storing gun powder, the building has never been adaptively renovated. The facade lines of the district vary. Two residences are not visible from Cemetery Road and are perched on picturesque projections of the bluff edge. The residences at the southern end of the district on the western side of Cemetery Road are located close to the road, but the neighborhood of ca. 1900 residences north of Weymouth Hall vary in their placement in relation to the road. This random placement

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The Cemetery Bluff District Continuation sheet Natchez, Adams Co., Ms. Item number 4

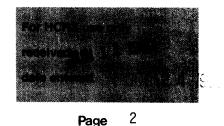
Property owners are listed alphabetically. If the property owned differs from the mailing address of the owner, a description of the nominated property is given in parenthesis at the end of the owner address.

- Adams, County of Maxie Wallace, Pres. of Board of Supervisors Adams County Courthouse Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (Natchez Cemetery)
- Anderson, Odessa
 10 Cemetery Road
 Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 3. Armstrong, Durall
 "Ellislie"
 200 South Pine Street
 Natchez, Mississippi 39120
 (Weymouth Hall)
- Biglane Dorothy S.
 3 Montebello Drive Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (Civil War Powder Magazine)
- Brown, Josephine B.
 28 Cemetery Road
 Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- Brown, Michael and Charlene 36 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- Davis, Joseph H. III
 24 Cemetery Road "Bluff-View" Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- Dawes, Harry C. and Leona 60 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 9. Emrick, Fred G., M.D. 5747 Concord Street Jackson, Mississippi 39211 (Surrounding acreage of "The Gardens")

- 10. Geddes, Mary Louise 523 South Union Street Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (Acreage surrounding 60 Cemetery Road)
- 11. Gilbert, Ruth
 c/o Ruth Gilbert Emrick
 2740 Miller Avenue
 Natchez, Mississippi 39120
 ("The Gardens")
- 12. Jones, Charles and Mary Ella 401 West Woodlawn Street Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (0.5 acres south of Weymouth Hall)
- Jones, Sirella
 806 Cemetery Road
 Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 14. Kimbro, Clifford and Sarah 18 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 15. Kings Daughter's Home 32 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 16. Laird, Charles M. 29 Oakhurst Drive Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (802 Cemetery Road)
- 17. Lee, Mrs. Nicki 42 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 18. Lewis, Albert and Joanna Lewis Barbecue 800 Maple Street Natchez, Mississippi 39120

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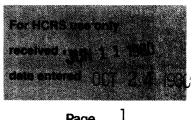


- 19. Lewis, Benjamin, estate of c/o Julia Howard ll Reynolds Street Natchez, Mississippi (Property at the rear of 12 Cemetery Road)
- 20. Lyntard, Elizabeth, estate of c/o Julia Lyntard 14 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 21. Mississippi, State of Eleemosynary Board 1404 Woolfolk Building Jackson, Mississippi 39201 Attention: Russell Carlos (Charity Hospital)
- 22. Natchez, City of Tony Byrne, Mayor City Hall Pearl Street Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (Natchez Cemetery)
- 23. Noble, Richard and Lillian 804 Maple Street Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 24. Peabody, Howard P.O. Box 700 Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (Property southwest of the Civil War Powder Magazine and property north of Weymouth Hall)
- 25. Prater, Jennie 4 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 26. Smith, Susan Emrick 2218 34th Avenue Meridian, Mississippi 39301 (Surrounding acreage of "The Gardens")

- 27. Todd, J. R., M.D. 5 West Woodlawn Street Natchez, Mississippi 39120 (Property across from Charity Hospital and adjacent to Civil War Powder Magazine)
- 28. United States Government Department of Memorial Affairs Veteran's Administration 810 Vermont Avenue Northwest Washington, D.C. 20240 (National Cemetery)
- 29. Weber, Gene
 "Ellislie"
 200 South Pine Street
 Natchez, Mississippi 39120
 (Weymouth Hall)
- 30. Williams, Lewis 12 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 31. Willis, Willie Mae Wroten 20 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120
- 32. Wilson, Georgia Boothe 22 Cemetery Road Natchez, Mississippi 39120

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Cemetery Bluff District **Continuation sheet** Natchez, Adams Co., Ms. 6 Item number



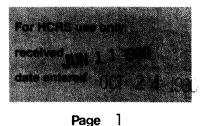
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National Register of Historic Places National Historic Landmarks Survey 1970's Federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Washington, D.C.

Statewide Historic Sites Survey 1970's State Mississippi Department of Archives and History Jackson, Mississippi

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Cemetery Bluff District Continuation sheet Natchez, Adams Co., Ms. Item number 7



STRUCTURAL DENSITY, TYPES, AND FACADE LINES: (continued) in a park-like setting is one of the characteristics of the Cemetery Bluff District.

OPEN SPACES, GARDENS, AND PARKING LOTS: Throughout the district are open spaces which contribute to the beauty of the district. These open areas consist principally of the landscaped park-like grounds of the Natchez City Cemetery and the Natchez National Cemetery. Two of the vacant lots listed in the inventory of the district are wooded, and all five are considered contributing as they contain no eyesores which would render them intrusions. The landscaped open spaces of the cemeteries combine with the trees, wooded lots, and wooded bayous to define significantly the "green" character of the district. Large informally landscaped areas include the cemeteries and the grounds of 60 Cemetery Road and The Gardens. The westernmost section of the ten acres which surround Weymouth Hall have been stripped of their landscaping materials as a result of efforts to counteract the erosion of the bluff. Important remnants of small geometric gardens can be found within the larger landscaped area of The Gardens. The only parking lot is the Charity Hospital parking lot.

OBJECTS: Objects in the district are primarily associated with the Natchez City Cemetery or Natchez National Cemetery and consist of an iron fountain (photo 26), small wooden plat signs, iron fences, iron benches, tombs, tombstones, and monuments. Intrusive objects are the cylone fences which have been installed across the front yards of many of the residences along Cemetery Road (photo 18).

STRUCTURES: The primary structures within the district are the street car waiting station (element 5), the cistern houses (photo 5) and mausoleums (photos 12, 22) of the Natchez City Cemetery, the roofed metal pavilion of the Natchez National Cemetery, and the brick gutters along the sides of Cemetery Road.

SITES: No sites important to the history of the Cemetery Bluff District are known to exist.

BUILDING PERIODS: The primary building period of the district is early 20th century (59%), but the architectural character of the district is determined primarily by the pivotal buildings within the district, all of which date to the mid-19th century or earlier. The pivotal elements are Charity Hospital, Weymouth Hall, the Natchez City Cemetery, The Gardens, and the Natchez National Cemetery, and it is these elements that mainly give the district its sense of time and place.

STYLES OF ARCHITECTURE: The architectural styles in the district include examples of styles dating from the early 1800's to the mid-20th century. The Gardens is Federal; Weymouth Hall and Charity Hospital are Greek Revival; 60 Cemetery Road is Colonial Revival; and the Shelter House of the Natchez City Cemetery is an example of the Craftsman Style. The unusual powder magazine may possibly be the only building of its type in the state of Mississippi. Most of the early 20th-century residences are regional frame cottages with gable roofs and galleries. The architectural styles of the Cemetery Bluff District reflect the usual regional modification to adapt them to the climate. Galleries, floor-length sash, louvered blinds, and high ceilings are all characteristic features of regional architecture.

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Cemetery Bluff District Continuation sheet Natchez. Adams Co., Ms. Item number 7

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DESIGN QUALITY: The quality of architectural design within the district varies. The Greek Revival architecture of Weymouth Hall and Charity Hospital is of state significance and 60 Cemetery Road is of local significance as a good example of the Colonial Revival Style. The Natchez City Cemetery Shelter House is one of very few buildings in the area that reflects the Craftsman influence. Most of the residences along Cemetery Road have a vernacular quality to their architecture. 4 Cemetery Road (photo 28) and 10 Cemetery Road (photo 10) are good examples of vernacular architecture within the district, and both of these houses were constructed by Black citizens and are Black owned today. Although The Gardens is a fine example of a Natchez Federal Style cottage, it also possesses certain vernacular qualities that distinguish it from other Natchez Federal residences. The unusual floor plan, the diminutive mantel piece of one of its bedrooms, and the wooden, unpaneled dado are examples of its vernacular qualities.

BUILDING MATERIALS: Most of the buildings within the district are constructed of wood, as has been true of the town of Natchez throughout its history. The buildings constructed during the mid-19th century (powder magazine, Charity Hospital, and Weymouth Hall) are all made of brick. The 1914 Shelter House and the National Cemetery office are stuccoed but the stucco on Charity Hospital was removed during a mid-20th century renovation.

DECORATION AND CRAFTSMANSHIP: Most of the wooden cottages derive some ornamentation, as do the more expensive buildings, from the inclusion of a railed porch or gallery on the facade. Some have gingerbread decoration including jigsaw railings and brackets. Ornamentation of the finer buildings takes the form of belvederes; cast-iron railings; turned, chamfered, and square columns; entrance doors with molded panels; fanlights; and transoms. The elaborate iron and marble work of the Natchez City Cemetery provides most of the decoration within the district.

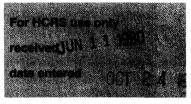
COLOR: Although white with green shutters predominates within the district area as it also did in the nineteenth century, other colors such as yellow, beige, and green have been introduced into the district.

CONDITION OF BUILDINGS: The general condition of the buildings within the district is good. The two buildings in deteriorated condition are listed as two of the three intrusive elements within the district. Weymouth Hall is in fair condition, but it is seriously threatened by the erosion of the bluff area. The fences within the Natchez City Cemetery vary in their condition with those under a perpetual care agreement being in the best condition. The older tombstones in the city cemetery not under perpetual care are in very deteriorated and broken condition.

ALTERATIONS AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES: Alterations within the Cemetery Bluff District have been minimal with Charity Hospital being the focus of most of the rehabilitation activities. In order to comply with state health regulations, the hospital has been stripped of most of its original interior building fabric. The integrity of The Gardens, Weymouth Hall, and the early 20th century residences is outstanding.

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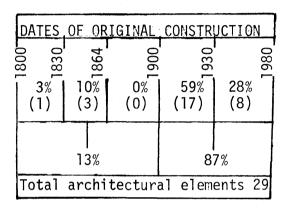


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ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL: The potential for historic archeology is probably small. The potential for prehistoric archeology is unknown. Most of the area has been the site of human occupation since the early 19th century.

STATISTICAL ANAYLSIS:

- 5 (14%) Pivotal 28 (78%) Contributing 3 (8%) Intrusions
- -----
- 36 Total Elements



(Note: The Natchez National Cemetery and Natchez City Cemetery are not included as architectural elements, and they comprise 76% of the district's land area. Therefore, this analysis reflects only about 24% of the total district area.)

LIST OF ELEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT: An explanation of date ranges given in the following list of elements is necessary to clarify the meaning of the terms. The term "early 19th century" refers to the period 1790-1830, when the late 18th century and Federal styles were most popular in Natchez. The term "mid-19th century" refers to the period 1830-1864, from the time the Greek Revival Style was introduced into Natchez until the date of the first accurate map of the structures within the district (photo 1). "Early 20th century" refers to the period 1900-1930 and "mid-20th century" refers to the period 1930-1970. Sanborn Insurance Maps did not extend northerly far enough to record the buildings within the Cemetery Bluff District, so more precise construction dates were not possible.

The elements are arranged on the list in order of their element numbers, beginning at the southernmost end of the district with Maple Street. Within Maple Street and Cemetery Road addresses, the element numbers correspond with the numberical order of the street numbers. Thus, individual elements may be accessed by either their element number or by their street address.

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Element #, Value, Street # & Description / Values: C=contributing, P=pivotal, I=intrusion

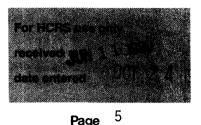
Maple Street and Cemetery Road are the same street and were both referred to as Cemetery Road until recent years. Maple Street is the postal address used by the residents of Cemetery Road who live at its southern end within the city limits of Natchez. The addresses change to Cemetery Road outside the corporate town limits.

MAPLE STREET

- 1 C Maple Street (no assigned street number and entered through element #2). One-story, five-bay frame residence with gabled roof, gallery, and box columns that is located in a picturesque setting on a promontory off the edge of the bluff. Early 20th century. (owner 24; photo 2)
- 2 C Maple Street (no assigned street number). Vacant lot. (owner 27)
- 3 C Maple Street (no assigned street number). Old Powder Magazine. One-story, one-bay brick building with gabled roof and iron door attached with large strap hinges; the interior of the building is composed of two chambers each having brick vaulted ceilings and the easternmost room having wooden flooring; the brick construction techniques and the absence of windows and wooden structural timbers substantiates the local tradition that the building was constructed as a city powder magazine. Probably constructed by Thompson and Breed in 1838, since the City of Natchez purchased five acres of land on Cemetery Road in May 1837 and appointed a committee to inspect the new powder magazine in December 1838. The possibility also exists that the building could have been constructed as part of the Union fortification, Fort McPherson. Mid-19th century. (owner 4; photo 3)
- 4 I 800 Maple Street. Lewis Barbecue. One-story, concrete-block commercial building with shed roof. Mid-20th century. (owner 18; photo 29)
- 5 C 801 Maple Street. Covered pavilion with pyramidal roof, overhanging eaves, stuccoedbrick supporting pillars, and low stuccoed-brick wall. This pavilion originally served as a waiting station for the Natchez street car system and was the end of the line at its northwestern limit. 1911. (owner 21)
- 6 P 801 Maple Street. Charity Hospital. Three-and-a-half story, H-shaped, hipped-roof brick building set upon a high basement with projecting corner pavilions. Placed between the pavilions on the northwest and southeast facades are inset galleries with giant-order, square brick columns with sandstone bases and capitals set upon story-high, pedestal-like piers. The shallow roof is crowned with an octagonal belvedere. Originally constructed as a U.S. Marine Hospital. Ca. 1837-54. National Register. (owner 21; photos 4, 13)

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MAPLE STREET (continued)

- 7 C 801 Maple Street. Charity Hospital Nursing School Building. Two-story, three-bay brick building with hipped roof and original single-bay Ionic portico remodeled into double-tiered galleries. Originally constructed as a nursing school, the building now serves as the physician's headquarters. Colonial Revival. Early 20th century; ca. 1903. National Register. (owner 21)
- 8 C 802 Maple Street. One-story, five-bay frame residence with gable-end facade, gallery, and board-and-batten side walls. Early 20th century. (owner 16)
- 9 I 802 Maple Street. One-story, three-bay frame commercial building with unsympathetic brick veneer facade in abandoned and extremely deteriorated condition. Early 20th century. (owner 16)
- 10 C 804 Maple Street. One-story, frame residence with gabled roof and recessed porch. Mid-20th century. (owner 23)
- 11 C 806 Maple Street. One-story, three-bay frame residence with pedimented entry porch. Mid-20th century. (owner 13)
- 12 C 808 Maple Street. Vacant lot. (owner 12)

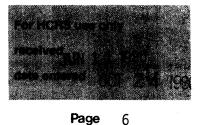
CEMETERY ROAD

- 13 P 2 Cemetery Road. Weymouth Hall. One-story, H-shaped brick mansion with hipped roof surmounted at its peak by a balustraded clerestory room; fully raised basement and recessed loggias on eastern and western elevations. The setting of the house is spectacular, as the house is perched on a high bank above Cemetery Road and overlooks the Mississippi River to the west and the Natchez City Cemetery to the east. Unfortunately, the house is extremely endangered due to unchecked erosion of the bluff. Greek Revival. 1852-60; ca. 1854. National Register. (owners 1, 29; photo 4)
- 14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery. The Natchez City Cemetery occupies a tract of land consisting of approximately 80 acres, the first ten of which were acquired by the city in 1824. Plat 1 and the Old Catholic Cemetery comprise the original cemetery purchase. Of the 80 acres, 8 acres are located within the corporate limits of the city and the remaining 72 acres are located in Adams County outside the city limits. A map of the Natchez City Cemetery has been included as part of the district nomination.

The cemetery is entered by means of four access gates off the eastern side of Cemetery Road with the first gate located immediately north of Charity Hospital and the last gate located south of "The Gardens" property. The cemetery is separated from

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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery (continued)

Cemetery Road by a low wall of simulated rusticated stone that dates to the early 20th century (photo 4), by the steep terraced western elevation of "Jewish Hill" (photo 26) and by a low hedge that runs northerly from "Jewish Hill" to "The Gardens" property. The simulated stone wall is broken only by the pillars and wrought-iron gates of the four cemetery entrances. The pillars at gates 1 and 4 are constructed of stuccoed-brick, but the pillars at gates 2 and 3 are constructed of simulated rusticated stone. Bayous form natural boundaries around the northern and eastern perimeters of the cemetery and a steep hill separates the cemetery from the Charity Hospital property to the south (photo 13).

Gate 3 functions as the main cemetery entrance and opens onto an avenue of live oak trees (photo 4). The paved avenue leading from Gate 3 is the original entrance drive to the cemetery as seen in the 1864 Map of the Defenses of Natchez (photo 1). The avenue of live oak trees terminates at the Shelter House, or office, for the cemetery. The Shelter House is a one-story, three-bay, hipped-roof, stuccoed building with wide, bracketed eaves and trellised entry porch. The building, which was constructed in 1914, was designed by Natchez native Sam Marx and reflects the Craftsman influence (photo 11).

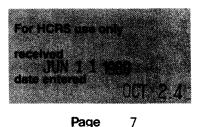
The only other building within the cemetery property is the barn housing the maintenance equipment and supplies. Constructed in the early 20th century, the barn is two stories in height with gabled roof, board-and-batten siding, and one-story, shed-roof, rear and side additions.

20th-century sections of the cemetery are distinguished by the flattened, graded topography of the land, the uniformity of monument size, and the absence of the abundant cast and wrought-iron work of the older sections. The latest cemetery additions are the 2nd Zurhellen Addition (photo 13), the Hospital Addition (photo 13), Brown's Addition, and Brown's Final Addition.

The Old Catholic Cemetery and Plat 1 (photo 15) show the greatest effects of age. The tombstones, many of them dating to the 1820's, are often broken or imbedded laterally and almost covered by the ground. The iron work is more often poorly maintained, grave sites located on the southern and western perimeters of this section long ago eroded into the bayous, and a greater percentage of the cemetery plots are not under perpetual care. Because of the cost of maintaining the cemetery and the lack of funds to operate it, those cemetery plots which are not under a perpetual care agreement are cleaned of weeds and growth only annually, at the end of the growing season.

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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery (continued)

The Case Addition (photo 12), Plat 2 (photos 8, 14, 15), and Plat 3 (photos 8, 22) are the most beautiful of the entire cemetery. This beauty is derived from the hilly character of the land, the ornamental planting, the abundance of outstanding cast and wrought-iron work, and the varied monuments, tombs, and tombstones. Most of these plots date to the mid-19th century.

The 1st Zurhellen Addition (photos 4, 25, 26), "Jewish Hill" (photos 24, 26), "Catholic Hill" (photo 23), and the Field's Addition (photos 5, 6) are primarily late 19th century in character with more wrought than cast-iron fences.

The three "colored" sections--the Public Colored, Catholic Colored, and Sullivan's Addition Colored (photo 17)-are plain in character with simpler monuments and tombstones and a large percentage of graves not under perpetual care. Apparently, the racial segregation indicated in the cemetery deeds and plat maps was not followed to the letter of the law, as Black citizens of Natchez are found buried in other sections of the cemetery.

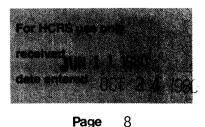
Throughout the older sections of the cemetery, gravestones can be found that date prior to 1824, the year the cemetery was established. The first city cemetery was located in downtown Natchez on the site now occupied by St. Mary's Cathedral and Memorial Park. Many of the graves in the old cemetery area were gradually relocated to the new cemetery.

Although the individual plats themselves are laid out in grids, the paved avenues within the cemetery developed primarily as functions of the different plats as they were acquired and developed. The paved avenues cut through the hills of the cemetery (photos 8, 11), but the wide, grassed avenues within the plats follow the topography of the land (photos 8, 15). The steepest area of the cemetery is "Jewish Hill" (photos 24, 26), which offers the most spectacular view of the Mississippi River and neighboring Louisiana from anywhere within the district boundaries (photos 7, 24).

Public structures within the cemetery consist of cistern houses and a brick arch with gate. The four, octagonal cistern houses with pyramidal roofs may be the only such cemetery structures in existence (photo 5). The cistern house gutters, which have been removed, collected water for the cisterns, and the cistern houses supplied cemetery visitors with water as well as shelter. The dated cistern covers (Pat. 1883) and the design of the cistern houses indicate that these structures were constructed in the late 19th century. The original wood shingle roofs have been re-

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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery (continued)

placed with modern, unsympathetic roof materials, two cistern covers remain, and all cistern pumps are missing. The brick arch with gate is located at the western edge of Plat 2. A marble inset in the arch identifies the first section of Plat 2 as the "Old Jewish Cemetery/1844-1899."

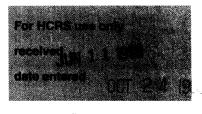
Public objects within the cemetery consist of a cast-iron fountain and wooden signs locating the cemetery plats. The large cast-iron fountain (photo 26) is located in the center of the 1st Zurhellen Addition. The small wooden signs identify the different areas of the cemetery such as Plat 1, etc., and identify the Catholic and Jewish cemetery sections at the far east and northwest corner as "Catholic Hill" and "Jewish Hill" (photo 24, 26). The three "colored" sections of the cemetery which were reserved for burying people of the Negro race are not marked by signs. The large, meadow-like area with occasional marked grave which is located at the eastern end of Plat 2 and Plat 3 served the city as a public burying ground for indigents and is also unmarked by signs.

Outstanding private structures and objects are found among iron fences, iron mausoleum doors, iron benches, a cast-iron mausaleum, mausoleums, tombs, tombstones, and monuments. The varied patterns of the iron work in the cemetery represents almost the entire spectrum of iron work produced in America in the 19th and early 20th century. The unusual cast-iron mausoleum manufactured by Wood, Wiltenberger & Co. of New Orleans, La. (photos 8, 22) is located in the Helm plot of Plat 3. Some companies that produced wrought or cast-iron work who are represented in the Natchez City Cemetery are listed as follows:

Philadelphia, Pa.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Kenton, Ohio
Springfield, Ohio
Cincinnati, Ohio
Knoxville, Tenn.
New York, N.Y.
New York, N.Y.

Most of the signed marble work in the cemetery dates to before the Civil War. The most prolific and outstanding of the antebellum Natchez marble workers were Edwin Lyon and Robert Rawes. Edwin Lyon arrived in Natchez in 1840 (<u>Weekly</u> <u>Courier and Journal</u> [Natchez], Feb. 12, 1840, p. 2) and sculpted many fine busts as well as cemetery monuments (Bethany B. Lambdin and H. Parrot Bacot, "Edwin Lyon, an Anglo-American sculptor in the lower Mississippi valley," <u>The Magazine Antiques</u>, Vol. CXI, No. 3 [March 1977], pp. 554-59). After his death in 1853, his wife

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Cemetery Bluff District Continuation sheet Natchez, Adams Co., Ms. Item number 7

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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery (continued)

Caroline continued the business for a short time signing her monuments Natchez Marble Works or simply Mrs. Lyon. In the mid-1850's, the operation of Lyon's Natchez Marble Works was assumed by the firm of Polkinghorne (Mrs. Lyon's brother) and Rawes. According to a newspaper article describing the monument of Mrs. John Fletcher, Robert Rawes was the artist who created the monuments produced by the firm. The monuments executed by Edwin Lyon are plain and architectural in character, but the monuments created by Robert Rawes display beautiful examples of bas relief sculpture. After Rawes death in 1865, Natchez apparently obtained its monuments and tombstones through agents for manufacturers in other cities. Monument and tombstone makers whose signed work has been located in the Natchez City Cemetery are listed as follows:

- J. I. Douglas, Natchez, Ms. William Burns, d. 1837, Plat 1
- T. Dixon, Natchez, Ms. Ruthanna, wife of W. K. Henry, d. 1844, Plat 1
- Lyon (Edwin), Natchez, Ms. John Roane Stockman, d. 1850, Plat 1 Mary, dau. of Rt. Rev. William Green, d. 1851, Plat 2 Dr. James McPheeters, d. 1848, Plat 2 (photo 15) John Maxwell, d. 1851, Plat 2
- Mrs. Lyon (Caroline), Natchez, Ms. William Harris, d. 1848, Plat 1
- Natchez Marble Works (Lyon firm) Edwin Lyon, d. 1853, Plat 2 John Cole, his two wives, d. 1853 and d. 1858, Plat 1 Susan, wife of J. McGill, d. 1854, Plat 2 Sarah, wife of T. A. S. Donaphan, d. 1858, Plat 1
- Polkinghorne and Rawes, Natchez, Ms. Sarah, wife of Jos. Neibert, d. 1859, Plat 1 William R. C. Vernon, d. 1859, Plat 1 Martha Chloe, wife of John Fletcher, d. 1854, Plat 2 Chloe Eleanor, dau. of John Fletcher, d. 1853, Plat 2 Marshall Gurney, d. 1858, Plat 2 Orlean, wife of John McCullough, d. 1850, Plat 3 Levi Harrison, d. 1858, Plat 3 Elisabeth, wife of Robert Rawes, d. 1850, Plat 3 (photo 16)

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CEMETERY BLUFF DISTRICT Natchez, Adams Co., Miss. 7 10 CONTINUATION SHEET PAGE Element #, Value, Street # & Description / Values: C=contributing, P=pivotal, I=intrusion CEMETERY ROAD (continued) 14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Nathcez City Cemetery (continued) Wm. M'Auley, Jr., Arlington, Vt. Horace Barlow, d. 1823 and Abel Barlow, d. 1832, Plat 1 J. Lansdown, unknown origin Dr. Thomas E. Schem, d. 1826 and Dr. Gul M. Watkins, d. 1823, Plat 1 E. Norris, Elizabeth Town, N. J. Benjamin Bynum, d. 1815, Plat 1 Mary Perkins, d. 1824, Plat 1 D. Bolles, Cincinnati, Ohio Walter Irvine, Sr., d. 1839, Plat 1 A. Weiblen, New Orleans, La. Mathilde Lisso, d. 1901, Jewish Hill (photo 24) Stroud, New Orleans, La. Elizabeth Henderson, d. 1849, Plat 1 Kent S. Ruller, St. Louis, Mo. Valentine Boyer, d. 1852, Plat 1 Struthers, Philadelphia, Pa. Joseph Neibert, d. 1837, Plat 1 Rosebrough, St. Louis, Mo. Andrew Marshalk, Jr., d. 1878, Plat 1 Dowry & Rule, Cincinnati, Ohio T. A. Holmes, d. 1851, Plat 2 Kursheedt & Bienvenu, New Orleans, La. Frances, dau. of T. P. Leathers, d. 1869, Plat 2 Dean, unknown origin Elijah Atchison, d. 1847, Plat 2 Webb, Brison & Co., St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Andrew Macrery, d. 1843, Case Addition

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Cemetery Bluff District Natchez, Adams Co., Miss. CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 11

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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery (continued)

A large bronze monument at Andrew Brown's plot in Plat 2 was manufactured by the Monumental Bronze Co., Bridgeport Conn. (photo 14). A bronze bust tops the tombstone of Negro Louis Winston, a clerk during reconstruction, and was sculpted by Isaac Hathaway, 1920 (photo 17).

Most of the figures who occupy outstanding positions in the history of Natchez and Mississippi are buried either in the Natchez City Cemetery or in private plantation cemeteries. Some of the famous citizens of Natchez who are buried in the Natchez City Cemetery are included in the following list.

Jose Vidal	Governor of Natchez Spanish District in 1798 and after- wards Spanish consul at Natchez; Vidalia, La. bears his name.
Isaac Guion	Commander of U.S. forces who took control of Natchez territory.
John Henderson	Wrote the first book printed in the Natchez territory.
Andrew Marshalk	Introduced printing to the Natchez territory and edited at least five newspapers in the area.
Gen. John A. Quitman	Hero of Mexican War and governor of Mississippi.
Capt. T. P. Leathers	Captain of the steamboat <u>Natchez</u> in the famous race with the Robert E. Lee.
William Johnson	Free Black barber whose published antebellum diary is a unique account of the freed Black in the antebellum South.
Andrew Brown	Pioneer in the lumber business in the Southwest and builder of the Commercial Bank and lighthouse on the bluff.
James Hardie	Architect of "Homewood" and builder (posssibly architect) of St. Mary's Cathedral.
Thomas Rose	Builder of "Stanton Hall."
Levi Weeks	Architect of "Auburn" and the man who introduced the orders of architecture to the Natchez territory.
Sidney Stratton	Architect and Natchez native who worked with Richard Morris Hunt and Stanford White.
Joseph Buck Stratton	Minister of the First Presbyterian Church from 1843-1903 whose sixty-year diary offers the most complete contemporary account of the history of Natchez.

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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

14 P 3 Cemetery Road. Natchez City Cemetery (continued)

Gen. William T. Martin
Rosalie BeekmanMississippi's highest ranking Confederate officer.
Natchez's only Civil War casualty within its city limits.
Natchez sculptor.Robert RawesNatchez sculptor.

- 15 C Cemetery Road (no assigned number). Vacant lot. (owner 24)
- 16 C 4 Cemetery Road. One-story, four-bay frame residence with board-and-batten siding, gable-end facade, and gallery. Early 20th century. (owner 25)
- 17 C 4 Cemetery Road. One-story, five-bay frame residence with central three-bay projection, gable-end facade, porch, and vernacular bracket trim; Black owned and built. Early 20th century. (owner 25; photo 28)
- 18 I 4 Cemetery Road. One-story, four-bay frame residence with gable-end facade in deteriorated and abandoned condition. Mid-20th century. (owner 25)
- 19 C 10 Cemetery Road. One-story, five-bay frame residence with gabled roof, gallery, jigsaw railing, and vernacular column capitals; Black owned and built. Ca. 1900. (owner 2; photo 10)
- 20 C 12 Cemetery Road. One-story, two-bay, gable-end facade frame residence with gallery. Mid-20th century. (owner 30)
- 21 C 12 Cemetery Road. One-story, four-bay frame residence with gabled roof and gallery; located on the edge of the bluff behind element #20. Early 20th century. (owner 19)
- 22 C 14 Cemetery Road. One-story, gable-end facade, frame residence with recessed porch. Mid-20th century. (owner 20)
- 23 C 18 Cemetery Road. One-story, gabled roof frame residence with side carport and pedimented entry porch. Mid-20th century. (owner 20)
- 24 C 20 Cemetery Road. One-story, two-bay, L-shaped frame residence with gabled roof and front gallery; side gallery enclosed. Early 20th century. (owner 31; photo 9)
- 25 C 22 Cemetery Road. One-story, four-bay frame residence with gable-end facade and pedimented entry porch. Early 20th century. (owner 32)

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Cemetery Bluff District Natchez, Adams Co., Miss. CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 13

Element #, Value, Street # & Description / Values: C=contributing, P=pivotal, I=intrusion

CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

- 26 C 24 Cemetery Road. One-story, five-bay frame residence with gabled roof, gallery, and jigsaw railing. Early 20th century. (owner 7)
- 27 C 28 Cemetery Road. One-story, frame residence with gabled-bay projection and wraparound porch. Early 20th century. (owner 5; photo 6)
- 28 C Cemetery Road (no assigned street number). Vacant lot that was originally part of "The Gardens" property. (owners 9, 26; photo 6)
- 29 C 32 Cemetery Road. Kings Daughter's Home. Two-story, three-bay brick residence on partially raised basement with hipped roof, gallery, and gabled side additions. Early 20th century. (owner 15; photo 6)
- 30 P 35 Cemetery Road. "The Gardens." One-story, nine-bay frame residence with gabled roof, gallery, chamfered columns, rectangular-sectioned blusters, and outside-end chimney. Semi-circular fanlight and twelve-paneled doors with sidelights. Onestory brick outbuilding with gabled roof. Early 19th century. (owner 11; photos 6, 18)
- 31 C 36 Cemetery Road. One-story, five-bay frame residence with gabled roof, gallery, and jigsaw railing. Ca. 1900. (owner 6)
- 32 C 42 Cemetery Road. One-story frame residence with hipped roof, recessed porch, wide eaves, gingerbread decoration, and turned balusters. Early 20th century. (owner 17)
- 33 C 42 Cemetery Road. One-story, four-bay astestos-clad residence with shed roof porch. Mid-20th century. (owner 17)
- 34 C Cemetery Road (no assigned street number). Wooded vacant lot.
- 35 C 60 Cemetery Road. One-and-a-half story frame residence with gabled-bay projection, wrap-around porch, and gabled dormers. Colonial Revival. Early 20th century. (owner 8; photo 21)
- 36 P 61 Cemetery Road. Natchez National Cemetery. The Natchez National Cemetery comprises an eleven-acre tract of land that was acquired by the Federal Government from "The Gardens" property in 1867 for use as a National Cemetery. The cemetery is one of 104 national cemeteries administered by the Verteran's Administration. A brick wall, broken only by the iron gates and pillars of the cemetery entrance, encircles

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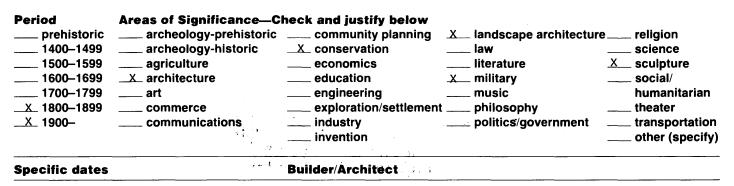
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CEMETERY ROAD (continued)

36 P 61 Cemetery Road. Natchez National Cemetery (continued)

the cemetery grounds. The iron gates open onto a paved circular drive with interpretive signs. Off the circular drive are the main cemetery office/residence and a restroom building. The 1931 office/residence is a one-and-a-half story, fivebay, stuccoed-frame residence with gabled roof, gabled dormers, central bay entrance portico, and later recessed side additions. The restroom building is a simple, onebay brick building with gabled roof. A single paved drive is entered off the circular drive and leads to a one-story, brick garage and maintenance building with gabled roof. A metal, roofed pavilion is located within the cemetery grounds to provide shade. The tombstones throughout the cemetery grounds are of uniform size and shape. (owner 28; photos 19, 20)

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cemetery Bluff District derives significance from the beauty of its park-like character, from its historic use and importance as a public park area for the City of Natchez, and from the importance of the buildings, structures, and objects within its boundaries. The jagged edges of the steep bluffs, the gently rolling hills, the steep terraced banks, the deep overgrown bayous, and the breathtaking view of the Mississippi River all unite to create a district of spectacular natural beauty. The landscaped open spaces of the two cemeteries combine with the trees, wooded lots, and wooded bayous to define significantly the "green" character of the district. It is this "green" and parklike character that gives the district its cohesiveness and distinguishes it from the surrounding area.

The boundaries of the Cemetery Bluff District are based primarily on the location and placement of the two cemeteries. The Natchez City Cemetery and Charity Hospital anchor the district at its southernmost boundary and the Natchez National Cemetery serves the same function at the northern extremity of the district. The eastern boundary is determined by the property lines of the two cemeteries and by the bayou which crosses The Gardens property. The jagged bluff edges serve as a natural western boundary for the district. The areas adjacent to the district boundaries are either densely populated or heavily wooded in contrast to the landscaped park character of the Cemetery Bluff District.

The purchase of 10 acres of land for cemetery use by the city of Natchez in 1824 established the public park character of the district area. This park character has steadily increased throughout the 19th and 20th centuries as the Natchez City Cemetery expanded to 80 acres. Also important in strengthening and expanding this park district was the purchase in 1867 of 11 acres of land for the establishment of the Natchez National Cemetery. As the early 20th century neighborhood developed on the western side of Cemetery Road, the integrity of the park-like character of the Cemetery Road area was maintained by the random placement of the residences within large landscaped lots.

The architectural integrity of the buildings within the district today is excellent. None of the buildings has been adaptively renovated, and Lewis Barbecue is the only commercial intrusion. Of the three intrusions, two are listed as intrusions because they are in deteriorated condition and are of insufficient merit to justify rehabilitation efforts. The third intrusion, Lewis Barbecue (element 4; photo 29) is intrusive because of its incompatible cinder block construction, its run-down neglected appearance, and the unsightly commercial advertising applied to the exterior of the building. Charity Hospital has been the focus of most of the renovation activity within the district. To comply with state health regulations, the building has been stripped of most of its original interior building fabric. Of the buildings within the district, Charity Hospital and Weymouth Hall are of state significance and The Gardens, the Shelter House, and 60 Cemetery Road are of local significance. The unique powder magazine may be the only building of its type within the state of Mississippi. No site besides the Natchez City Cemetery has as concentrated a collection of objects associated with as many individuals significant to the history of the region. The examples of wrought and cast-iron work within the

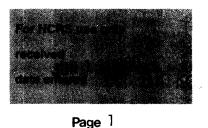
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geograph	ical Data	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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The evaluated significance of th	is property within the state	tate is: local	
	perty for inclusion in the	e National Register a	ric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89 and certify that it has been evaluated tion and Recreation Service.
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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Cemetery Bluff District Continuation sheet Natchez, Adams Co., Ms. Item number 8



cemetery are outstanding, and the cemetery has the largest collection of signed marble work in the area.

The principal effect of the Cemetery Bluff District on the development of the town of Natchez is that it curtailed northern expansion along the River Road, as Cemetery Road was called in the 19th century. The area is presently and historically a public park area for the town of Natchez. During the occupation of Natchez by Union troops, two of the district's buildings, the powder magazine and Charity Hospital, were located within the boundaries of Fort McPherson (photo 1). The town historically and presently has its northern limits at the southern end of the Cemetery Bluff District. The rooted pavilion described in element 5 was a waiting station for the Natchez street car system at its northern limits.

Although located only about a mile north of the center of downtown Natchez, the Cemetery Bluff District has a decided rural character. This rural character is reflected in the random placement of the buildings within the district and also in the vernacular quality of the architecture. The residents of the Cemetery Bluff District have been racially mixed since the beginning of the development of the residential sections along the western side of Cemetery Road. At least two of the interesting vernacular residences were Black built as well as presently Black owned (elements 17, 19; photos 10, 28). An interesting feature of the city cemetery is its use by citizens of all faiths and races. More frequently in older communities like Natchez, separate cemeteries--often located in church yards--are maintained by the different religious faiths and different races. Within the Natchez Cemetery are located the Old Jewish Cemetery, Jewish Hill, Old Catholic Cemetery, Catholic Hill, and sections reserved for Black citizens.

Preservation activities within the district officially began in 1908 with the establishment of the Natchez Cemetery Association. The Natchez City Cemetery at that time had become a neglected jungle and was subsequently transformed again to a beautiful garden area. Walls and fences were repaired and roads improved. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers played an active role in rebuilding and stabilizing Cemetery Road north of Weymouth Hall after a 20th century cave-in demolished a section of the road. The Corps also advised on the terracing of the steep banks within the cemetery property. This terracing has proved highly effective in counteracting the erosion characteristic of loess Weymouth Hall has been the focus of local concern in recent months due to the soil. dangerous condition of the bluff upon which it sits. Unchecked erosion has resulted in the sluffing of the bluff to within ten feet of the northwest corner of the house. The tragic mud slide which occured in the spring of 1980 and demolished two buildings in the Natchez Under-the-Hill Historic District has increased concern about the condition of the entire bluff area. The Natchez City Cemetery continues to be the main focus, however, for preservation activities within the district. Due to lack of funds, only those cemetery plots which are maintained under a perpetual care agreement are in a good state of repair. In recent years, the City of Natchez has begun to take a more active part in preservation activities. The city partially funded the Natchez on-Top-of-the-Hill Historic District listed on the National Register in 1979 and initiated and totally funded the preparation of the Cemetery Bluff District to focus attention on its historic cemetery neighborhood.

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Page 1

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books, Probate Papers, and Will Books.

Ingraham, Joseph Holt. <u>The South-West.</u> <u>By a Yankee</u>. New York: Harper & Brothers, Cliff-St., 1835.

James, D. Clayton. <u>Antebellum Natchez</u>. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.

Natchez, Miss. Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century newspapers.

Wilson, Capt. John M., Chief Engineer. <u>Map of Defenses of Natchez & Vicinity</u>, prepared and surveyed under direction of Capt. P. Hains, U. S. Engineers, 1864.

