

PH 366811

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED SEP 20 1976	
DATE ENTERED	OCT 21 1976

**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
** Oakland
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
9 Oakhurst Drive

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

STATE
Mississippi

VICINITY OF
Fourth

COUNTY
Adams

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

CODE
28

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. George Lawrence Adams

STREET & NUMBER
9 Oakhurst Drive

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

STATE
Mississippi

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

STATE
Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Adams County Landmark Inventory

DATE
1974

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Natchez Metropolitan Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

STATE
Mississippi

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

Oakland is a one-story brick-and-stucco residence located on 3-1/2 acres south of Liberty Road at 9 Oakhurst Drive in Natchez, Mississippi. The main five-bay block, covered by a pyramidal roof, is flanked on each side by small wings with hipped roofs. A spacious gallery runs along the full sixty-one-foot width with simple square columns supporting a full entablature. The entrance is marked by a substantial battered-and-eared frontispiece containing a large transom, a two-paneled door, and large flanking panels where sidelights might normally be found. Floor-length six-over-nine windows give additional access to the interior and are unique in Mississippi because of their splendid mahogany sashes.

The rear elevation presents a variation of the regionally popular gallery-between-cabinets scheme by the extension of the end cabinets beyond the line of the main block for improved cross ventilation. In recent years, the rear gallery has been enclosed with glass set between the simple wooden columns. Principal architectural features of all the secondary elevations include the arched openings below a three-course watertable and the full entablature in brick.

Located a few yards behind Oakland is a two-story brick dependency housing a kitchen and quarters. Originally, this structure featured a cantilevered balcony along its six-bay front, but this interesting element was unnecessarily altered when supporting posts were added below in recent years.

The plan of Oakland provides for a broad center hall connecting the front and rear galleries, with the drawing and dining rooms occupying the forward half of the main block and large bedrooms the rear half. Directly off the dining room is the south wing containing a modern kitchen in a former pantry. For balance, a similar north wing was added off the drawing room a few years after the house was finished. Now used as a library, the addition may have originally provided for a schoolroom on the main floor and a "milk room" on the ground level. Connecting the two levels is a winding circular stair housed in an unusual cylindrical shaft. The plan is completed by the bed and bath rooms which occupy the rear cabinets.

The interior trim of Oakland is characteristic of the Greek Revival period but is substantially more chaste and sophisticated than many of its Mississippi contemporaries. Doors and windows are surrounded by wide battered-and-eared architraves which rise slightly on axis to approximate pediments. Paneling is found on all doors, jambs, soffits and on interior shutters fitted into splayed reveals. Large, beautifully proportioned plaster entablatures decorate the hall, drawing room and dining room, while the secondary chambers have only much simpler cornices. Mantels are of white marble or wood designed with pilasters supporting simple uncarved friezes and shelves. A single exception is found in a rear bedroom, where the mantel is of pink marble with an arched fire chamber, panel-like spandrels and a shielded keystone. Also of note are the marbleized baseboards in the center passage and the pairs of mahogany sliding doors between the drawing and dining rooms and the hall.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1838-1844

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at 9 Oakhurst Drive in Natchez, Mississippi, is "Oakland," a significant example of Greek Revival architecture and one of the most prominent "suburban villas" in the region. Although only a one-story structure, Oakland is monumental in character because of its excellent proportions, generous scale, and sophisticated detail. The interior space is complemented by fine Greek Revival plaster and woodwork and is considered among the best-calculated and best-executed interiors of its period in the state. In addition, Oakland is significant as the residence of several families important in the social history of Natchez, particularly during the Civil War era.

Oakland was constructed between 1838 and 1844 by Horatio Sprague Eustis (1811-1858), a native of Rhode Island who migrated to Natchez after graduation from Harvard in 1830. He was employed as a tutor to Catherine Chotard (1820-1877), whose family was described in 1837 as among "the most wealthy and inteligent [sic] part of this community" (Johnson p. 210). Her maternal grandfather was Stephen Minor, the last Spanish territorial governor of the Natchez District, and her father, Major Henry Chotard, served with great distinction at New Orleans with General Andrew Jackson (Claiborne, 1:345). Marrying Catherine Chotard in 1838, Eustis became one of the most aristocratic citizens of Natchez, and by 1844 he had constructed Oakland on 22.5 acres of land given to his wife by her father (Adams County Deed Book HH, p. 436). Eustis held title to the property until 1857, when the house was sold to a cousin, John Minor (Adams County Deed Book LL, p. 288), who was described as "a very superior gentleman . . . [who] spent his life in fox-hunting and giving dinner parties, and reading literary works" (Southern Claims Commission, Testimony of Julia A. Nutt, March 19, 1874). His wife was Katherine Surget Minor, whose plantations were estimated to be worth \$1,500,000.

It was under the Minor ownership that Oakland became significant as the local center of Union sympathies during the Civil War. When Federal troops occupied Natchez, Oakland served as a "perfect hotel for officers, Generals and all" (Southern Claims Commission, Testimony of Thomas H. Spain, May 24, 1875). According to Confederate General William T. Martin, John Minor's hospitality cost him dearly:

. . . Most all his associates, classmates and relatives were in the Confederate army, and they all showed him, in one way or another their disapproval of his course -- not only because he had not gone into the Army, but also because Mrs. Minor and

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books, HH, LL, 6-F, 8-X. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Claiborne, J. F. H. Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State. Jackson: Power and Barksdale, Publishers and Printers, 1880.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3-1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	6 5 4 2 5 0	3 4 9 1 5 7 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

525

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

September 10, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

(601) 354-6218

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

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

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 10, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/21/98

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-20-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

himself were constantly entertaining the Federal officers at their house during the time they were there. That family, above all others, was regarded as the Union family of the place, by those who knew anything about them or had any social relations with them . . . the Minor family were in very bad odor with the Confederates . . . (Southern Claims Commission, Testimony of William T. Martin, December 12, 1877).

After the Civil War, John Minor continued to be abused by the citizens of Natchez until his "treatment from old friends and associates had been such that he didn't care whether he lived or died" (Southern Claims Commission, Testimony of William T. Martin, December 12, 1877). Minor died in 1869 at the age of 37.

Oakland continued to be occupied by the descendants of John Minor until 1949, when it was sold to Alan W. Granning (Adams County Deed Book 6F, p. 407), who subsequently subdivided the property leaving three-and-one-half acres around the residence. In 1960, title passed to Lawrence Adams (Adams County Deed Book 8X, p. 369), who has opened the house to the public each spring during the month-long Natchez Pilgrimage.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

- Hogan, William R. and Davis, Edwin A. William Johnson's Natchez: The Ante-Bellum Diary of a Free Negro. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951.
- Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Adams County. Oakland. Eustis and Minor family histories.
- Washington, D. C. National Archives. Testimony in the case of Mrs. Katherine S. Minor vs. The Southern Claims Commission. Typescript in the possession of Mrs. Lawrence Adams, Natchez, Mississippi.