

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Adams
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dunleith

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Routhlands

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
84 Homochitto Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
4

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
28

COUNTY:
Adams

CODE:
001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Leslie Carpenter

STREET AND NUMBER:
84 Homochitto Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Natchez

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Chancery Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Adams County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Natchez

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (5 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Divison of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:
Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dunleith is a two-story, square residence with a peripteral colonnaded gallery. Exterior walls and the 26 giant Tuscan columns are plastered brick painted white. Ornamental iron balustrades of different patterns enclose the galleries at the first and second floors. Entrances at both levels are monumental in scale with heavy entablature and pilasters framing the sidelights and transom of the opening. The closely spaced brackets of the cornice are not proper modillions. A hip roof is broken by six dormers (one at each side, two at front and rear); their facades are buttressed with swelling Baroque forms. An original rectangular cupola with square corner columns and balustrade was removed by a previous owner.

The original plan of both residential floors of Dunleith was a continuation of the symmetry which characterizes the exterior, with wide central hallways flanked by two rooms on each side. Baths and closets were subsequently added to each of the four bedrooms on the second floor, utilizing former gallery space, and a breakfast room was similarly built in at the northwest corner of the first floor. West of the breakfast room are the butler's pantry and the kitchen, which project beyond the rectangle of the main block, and the dining room and the library are east of the breakfast room, completing the north side of the first floor. Across the hall on the south are the living room and the drawing room, which can be combined by opening sliding wooden doors and which share certain decorative detail. Mantelpieces are white Carrara marble richly carved in triple engaged columns at the sides; an arch of incised cable molding around the fireplace opening and triangular panels in the spandrels above it; and a floral cartouche centered beneath the curved mantel shelf. Narrow panels are set within the reveals of the floor-length windows, the lower sashes of which can be raised to a height of 6 feet to provide access to the gallery. Plaster ceiling medallions are composed of acanthus leaves and lotus blossoms. In the library and dining room are identical medallions in a design of alternating acanthus leaves and a single flower on a leafed stem. The library mantelpiece is gray-veined beige marble, probably Florentine, and that in the dining room is red Verona marble; both are carved similarly to those in the living room and the drawing room.

The central hallway features the 5 to 7-inch pine floor boards, 15-foot ceiling, and prominent cornice seen throughout the house and like the dining room has a 6-inch wide chair rail. Molded framings of the entrances to the four adjoining rooms and to the front and rear galleries are highlighted by hooded cornices which form the overdoors. The two medallions in the hallway ceiling repeat the acanthus/flower motif, in this instance sprays of roses. The second floor rooms are finished in a unifying repetition of decorative elements such as ceiling medallions composed of multiple torus moldings; mantelpieces of carved black or white marble; and crossetted door and window frames. Hinged sidelights at the front and rear gallery entrances and louvered hall doors for the bedrooms provide increased circulation of air. There are four rooms,

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Ca. 1855**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Full peripteral colonnaded plantation houses were built throughout the South and represent the ultimate in architectural expenditure more often than the pure fulfillment of Greek temple form. Dunleith is the only remaining Mississippi example of the type. Those lost in the lower Mississippi valley include Windsor, Greenwood, and Uncle Sam, all of legendary splendor. Although the house at Dunleith is of Classic form, the outbuildings are an interesting Gothic contrast and the service wing preserves a rare mid-century bathroom.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	31°	32	57"	91°	24	13"			
NE	31°	33	02"	91°	23	59"			
SE	31°	32	50"	91°	23	52"			
SW	31°	32	47"	91°	24	07"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paul Goeldner, Architect, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys,
National Park Survey DATE: 1/16/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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7. Description (page 1)

Dunleith

each with fireplace, in the attic story; originally they served as bedrooms and are now utilized for storage.

The main house is joined on its rear elevation to a three-story, 18-room service wing of white-painted brick. From the ridge line of the tile roof rise three tall rectangular chimneys with molded caps. Galleries of the second and third floors are supported by square wooden columns which are based on brick piers at ground level. On the interior of the service wing, and extending beneath the main house itself, are the structural remnants of a significant 19th-century plumbing and heating system. Outside, paired curving flights of five brick steps lead to the second-floor gallery of the wing, which is level with the first-floor gallery of the main house. Beyond the rear lawn, brick steps descend the series of terraces which characterize the Dunleith property. At the foot of the second terrace is a building containing garages and kennels, with a turreted, hexagonal, three-tiered columbarium centered on its roof. In the meadow west of the house is a two-story brick barn with wooden carriage ramp leading to the upper floor and stables located on the ground level. The core of the building is rectangular in shape with square projections at the four corners and a crenellated parapet. There are two smaller outbuildings in the same style: a servant's lodge with Tudor gable ends a short distance north of the barn and a greenhouse below the terraces south of the main house. The highest slope of the south terraces is spanned by a broad flight of 15 stucco steps which at top and bottom is flanked by large paneled bases on which rest decorative urns. According to tradition, the steps approached the original Routhlands, which was reputedly built with its facade to the south.

Dunleith is on the site of Routhlands, a late 18th-century, one-story structure which Job Routh later increased to two stories with columns and upper galleries on two sides. After the original house burned in 1855, Routh's son-in-law, Charles C. Dahlgren, had the present house built. (Dahlgren, a brigadier general in the Confederate Army of Mississippi, was the brother of John A. B. Dahlgren who rose to the rank of rear admiral in the Union navy.) At the death of his wife, he honored her request by purchasing the property from her estate and selling it in 1859 to divide the proceeds among her children. The new owner, Alfred Vidal Davis, renamed the house Dunleith.

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(Continuation Sheet)

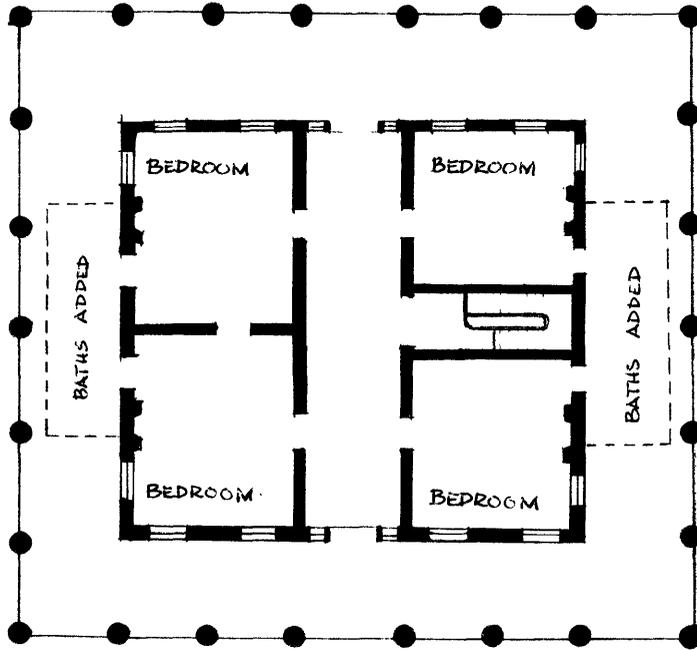
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7. Description

Dunleith, Natchez,
Mississippi

Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

