

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: **Auburn**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Duncan Park

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **City of Natchez (Mayor and Board of Aldermen)**

STREET AND NUMBER: **City Hall**

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 (7 photos)**

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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Division 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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COUNTY: _____

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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
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Auburn was first described by its designer and builder, Levi Weeks, in September 1812:

"The brick house I am building is just without the city line and is designed for the most magnificent building in the Territory. The body of this house is 60 by 45 feet with a portico of 31 feet projecting 12 feet supported by 4 Ionic columns with the Corinthian entablature, the ceiling vaulted, the house two stories with a geometrical staircase to ascend to the second story. This is the first house in the Territory on which was ever attempted any of the orders of Architecture. The site is one of those peculiar situations which combines all the delight of romance, the pleasure of rurality, and the approach of sublimity. I am the more particular in describing this seat not only to give you an idea of the progress of improvement but to inform you what you will hear with pleasure, that the owner of it is a Yankey, a native of our own state, Massachusetts, and is now in Boston on a visit. His name is Lyman Harding."

Judge Harding, first attorney general of Mississippi Territory and of the State, died in 1820. In March of that year Auburn was visited by the Benjamin Latrobes, en route to New Orleans; Mrs. Latrobe's impression was entirely favorable in contrast to her description of the town of Natchez as a "vile hole." Later in 1820 the estate was purchased by Dr. Stephen Duncan, who added the symmetrical wings.

Though possessing a fortune in land and slaves, Duncan worked actively in the American Colonization Society, an organization to free slaves and settle them in Africa. As secession approached he became increasingly outspoken in his Union sympathies and he returned to his native Pennsylvania after the Civil War began. In 1911 his descendants deeded Auburn to the city of Natchez. The house is now maintained by the Town and Country Garden Club; the surrounding property has become a municipal park and golf course.

The quality and variety of the original interior and exterior wood trim distinguishes Auburn. Although the pedimented interior doors and handsomely detailed mantels are Georgian in character and hardly pace-setting, the treatment of the sidelighted entrances at both levels appears inventive and unique. The principal contribution of Levi Weeks at Auburn is the two-story order of the portico which became a model for Natchez houses and has come to symbolize all southern plantation houses. Its use in domestic architecture here precedes similar porticoes at the University of Virginia and their application to Arlington (Virginia) and the White House in the 1820s.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1812

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Documented as the design of Levi Weeks, Auburn was, by his statement, the first house in Mississippi Territory to employ the orders of Architecture. The temple form of the portico was so early and so influential that Auburn must be regarded as one of the most important houses in the South. Although the interior detail is Georgian and no longer fashionable in 1812, the woodwork is so well detailed that it commands admiration.

Auburn had two owners of distinction. Judge Lyman Harding, the first owner, was the first Attorney General of Mississippi. After his death in 1820 the property was acquired by Dr. Stephen Duncan. Though possessing a fortune in slaves, Dr. Duncan favored emancipation, opposed secession, and refused to support the Confederacy.

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	31° 32' 44"	91° 23' 36"		0	0	
NE	31° 32' 44"	91° 23' 30"				
SE	31° 32' 40"	91° 23' 30"				
SW	31° 32' 40"	91° 23' 36"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4.2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys** DATE _____
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **11**

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

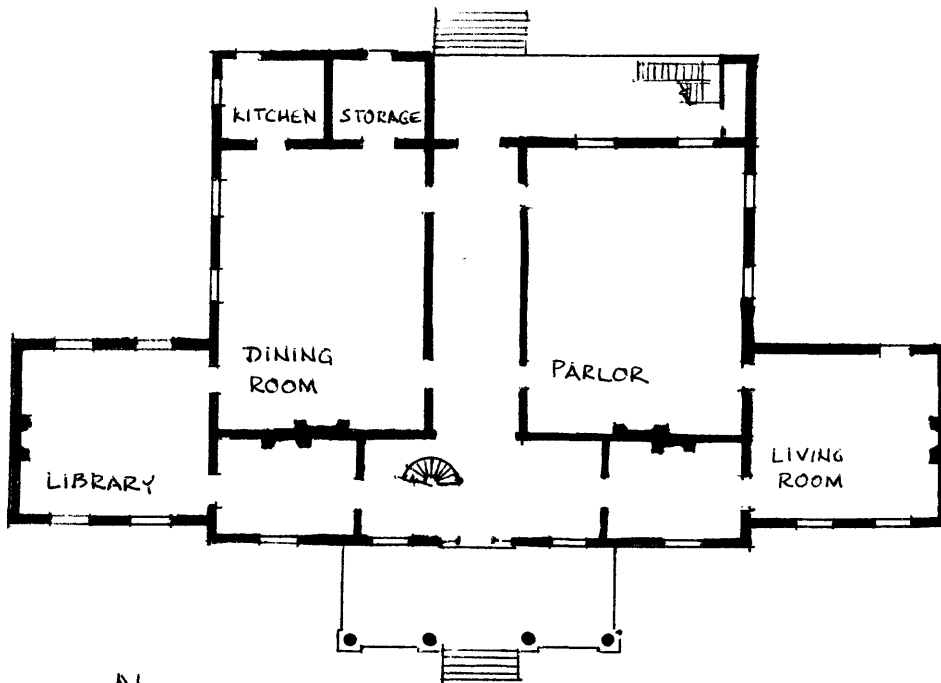
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
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(Number all entries) 7. Description

Auburn, Natchez, Mississippi



First floor plan