

**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:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Melrose

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Melrose Avenue

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Estate of George Malin Davis Kelly

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Melrose

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 (2 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934       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

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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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

Melrose, though not innovative, is a highly successful attempt at perfecting the Natchez plantation mansion created at Auburn and Arlington 25 or 30 years before. The dimensions are somewhat larger and the construction more solid. The Doric tetrastyle portico is modified by the broad spacing of the center columns; the iron railings are notable for their delicacy. The rear gallery is incorporated in the design and the hip roof is crowned with a balustrade.

Fluted Ionic columns frame the broad interior openings which have carved sunbursts in the transom space. Wood mouldings, despite their large scale and simple profiles, do not appear ponderous. Plaster cornices are of Spartan simplicity and the dark marble mantels are simply carved. The Grecian purity of the architectural setting contrasts sharply with the ornate Victorian furniture; bronze chandeliers, gold-framed mirrors and heavy draperies. A carved mahogany punkah is prominent in the dining room.

Melrose is most remarkable for the quality of the preservation and maintenance of the house, outbuildings and grounds. To the rear of the house is a symmetrical service yard; a two-story kitchen, latticed octagonal cistern house and square brick privy on the left are balanced by a two-story dairy and identical cistern house and privy on the right. Slave cabins, a barn, carriage house, and poultry house are more distant. The approach drive skirts the great, shaded lawns at the front.

Built in 1845 for attorney John T. McMurren, Melrose was his until 1865 when it was sold, with most of its furnishings, to George Malin Davis. Vacant through a quarter-century, the house in 1901 became the home of Davis' grandson, George M. D. Kelly, and his bride, a spirited lady who has lived there for 73 years.

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**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) 1845

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/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

In a community of magnificent mansions, Melrose is remarkable for the perfection of its design and the integrity of its maintenance and surroundings. Its detached kitchen is still used, having never been replaced by alterations or additions to the main house. Built in 1845, its ownership has been in only two families; its furnishings have never been dispersed. The lawns and outbuildings complete a complex designed and executed as a whole and never compromised by unsympathetic accretions or encroachments.

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' 41½"	91° 23' 05"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	31° 32' 41½"	91° 22' 41½"				
SE	31° 32' 22"	91° 22' 46"				
SW	31° 32' 21"	91° 23' 09"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **56.1 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,  
National Park Service**      DATE: **1/7/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street NW**

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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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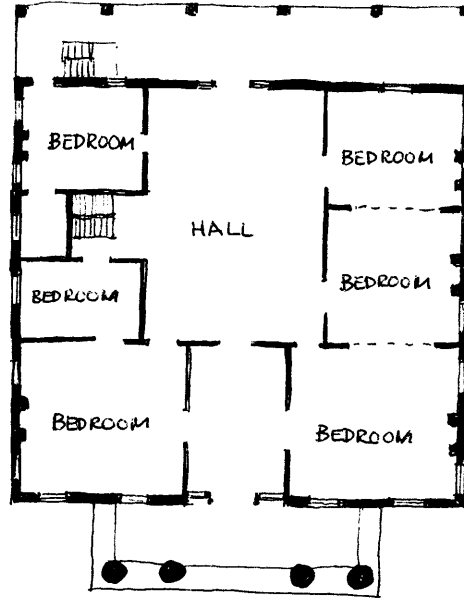
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Adams	
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(Number all entries)

Plans of Melrose  
Natchez, Mississippi

Second floor



First floor

