

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 22 1979

DATE ENTERED

17 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Prentiss Club

AND/OR COMMON

Prentiss Club

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner of intersection of Pearl and

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Jefferson streets

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

028

Adams

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

 BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION**ACCESSIBLE**

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

 YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

 OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Miriam M. Montgomery

STREET & NUMBER

221 North Wall Street

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Prentiss Club is a large L-shaped structure on the southeast corner of the intersection of Pearl and Jefferson streets in downtown Natchez, Mississippi. Its two principal elevations, which face west and north, are designed in the Second Renaissance Revival style, with arched fenestration, loggias, sculptured decoration, bracketed eaves, and a low hipped roof covered with red tiles. The secondary south and east elevations (not intended for public view) are largely unornamented and without the blond all-stretcher brick veneer of the main elevations.

The facade, or west elevation, is divided horizontally into three successively taller sections: a raised terrace surrounded by a wooden balustrade between pedestals, a low entrance level, and a high main floor, or piano nobile. Flanked by pairs of glazed double-leaf doors opening onto the terrace, the main entrance consists of a simple double-leaf paneled-oak door, recessed behind a screen of columns, pilastered piers, and an open frontispiece, which is designed with an arched pediment framing a center disk bearing the monogram of the club. Egg-and-dart moldings and carved acroteria are additional ornaments of the handsome frontispiece.

The principal, or second floor, is lit by four arched casement windows, the outer two of which are extended to the floor to provide access to small balconies supported by consoles. Adamesque pilasters, decorated with lyres, vases, and floral motifs, flank each window and support archivolts capped with large acroteria. Placed above the entrance frontispiece is a high relief portrait sculpture of Seargent Prentiss.

The north elevation, which fronts onto Jefferson Street, is designed with a less formal ground floor, with both casement and six-over-one double-hung windows flanking an off-center recessed doorway. To promote the image of the ground floor as the podium for the piano nobile above, the brick veneer is laid to simulate wide bands of masonry. Placed in the center of the upper level is a three-bay loggia with arches springing from pairs of coupled Tuscan columns. Like the large casement windows which flank it, the loggia is detailed with the same Adamesque motifs found on the principal elevation.

The interior of the ground floor of the Prentiss Club includes three large rooms, used originally as a library, club room, and billiard room (The Natchez Democrat, June 30, 1905, p. 5). The club room on the northerly side of the entrance hall features a paneled, molded dado, molded bases with double fasciae, molded cornices, free-standing Corinthian columns, exposed ceiling beams, and an ornate mantelpiece with the club emblem. The outstanding architectural features of the library are an elaborate dentiled cornice, ornate mantelpiece with the club emblem, molded chair rail, and molded bases with double fasciae. The stair, which is entered from the rear cross hall, is divided into two separate flights, which run from front to back and terminate in a single landing. The stair, which is adorned with

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Entertainment
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

May, 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Stietenroth and Dowda (contractors)
Soule and MacDonald (architects)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The clubhouse of the Prentiss Club, a private men's organization chartered by the State of Mississippi in 1903, is architecturally probably the most significant public building constructed in Natchez in the present century. Erected in 1905 in the Second Renaissance Revival style, the building is one of the finest examples of the style in the state and certainly the best example in Natchez. Named in honor of Seargent Prentiss, a Natchez attorney and nationally acclaimed orator (D. Clayton James, Antebellum Natchez [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968], p. 119), the club was the center for much of the social activity in Natchez until the opening of the Eola Hotel in 1927 (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, National Register of Historic Places file, Adams Co., Eola Hotel).

The ten charter members of the club, which was created for social and literary purposes, were primarily professional men and merchants who lived in the downtown area. Approximately half were Jewish (Adams Co., Miss. Deed Book 3X:473). The facility, erected at a cost of \$35,000, was designed by the New Orleans architectural firm of Soule and MacDonald (Architecture, vol. I, no. 2 [Aug., 1905], p. 10), and was constructed by the local contracting firm of Stietenroth and Dowda (The Natchez Democrat, June 30, 1905, p. 5).

In 1928 the facility was sold to local Masonic lodges to be used as a Masonic temple (Deed Book 4M:330). Deposit Guaranty National Bank, one of the largest banking institutions in the state, purchased the property in 1973, and in 1976, arguing that it had unsuccessfully attempted to sell the Prentiss Club and that the building was unattractive and a public nuisance, applied to the City of Natchez for a permit to raze the structure for parking space. After intervention by local preservationists, who successfully blocked demolition, the property was acquired by the present owners, who have initiated a compatible rehabilitation of the prominent downtown property.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 3X, 4M, 12L.

Architecture, vol. I, no. 2 (August, 1905).

_____, vol. I, no. 3 (September, 1905), correction notice.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	6	5	1	7	10	10	3	4	9	2	7	7	5
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached city tax map photocopy with nominated property outlines in red. The nominated property is located on map 5, block 1, parcel 3.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE William C. Allen, Research Consultant
Mary Warren Miller, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Private consultants

DATE

November 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

506 High Street

TELEPHONE

(601) 442-9786

CITY OR TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

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

Arthur B. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 14, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Charles W. Williams*

DATE

4-17-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/16/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED FEB 22 1979	
DATE ENTERED	APR 17 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4,7,&9 PAGE 1

4 - OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mrs. Dorothy Covington
P. O. Box 516
Fayette, Mississippi 39069

Mrs. Helen Spencer
P. O. Box 312
Fayette, Mississippi 39069

7 - PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

turned balusters and Corinthian columns instead of newels, then proceeds from back to front in a single flight and terminates in an upstairs hallway.

The upstairs consists of a ballroom and balcony, three card rooms, and a formal dining room. The basement floor originally housed the kitchen, bowling alley, alley, and shooting gallery. Other interesting features of the building, as originally constructed, are a dumb waiter, which ran from the basement kitchen to the second-story dining room, and speaking tubes.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hogan, William Ranson, and Davis, Edwin Adams, eds. William Johnson's Natchez, The Ante-Bellum Diary of a Free Negro. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951.

James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.

The Natchez Democrat, June 30, 1905.

_____, July 1, 1927.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

88

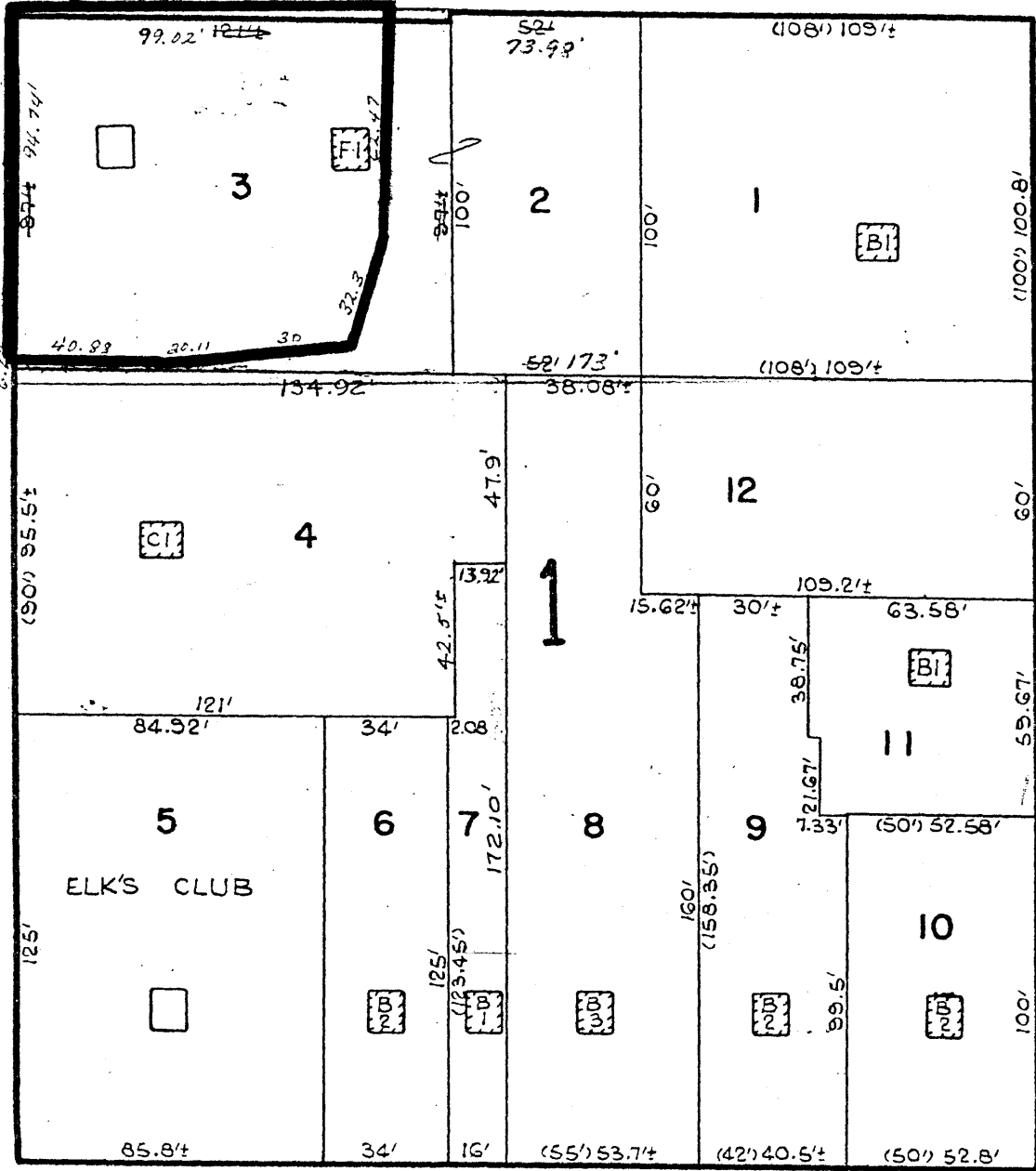
STREET

STREET

STREET

PEARL

COMMERCE



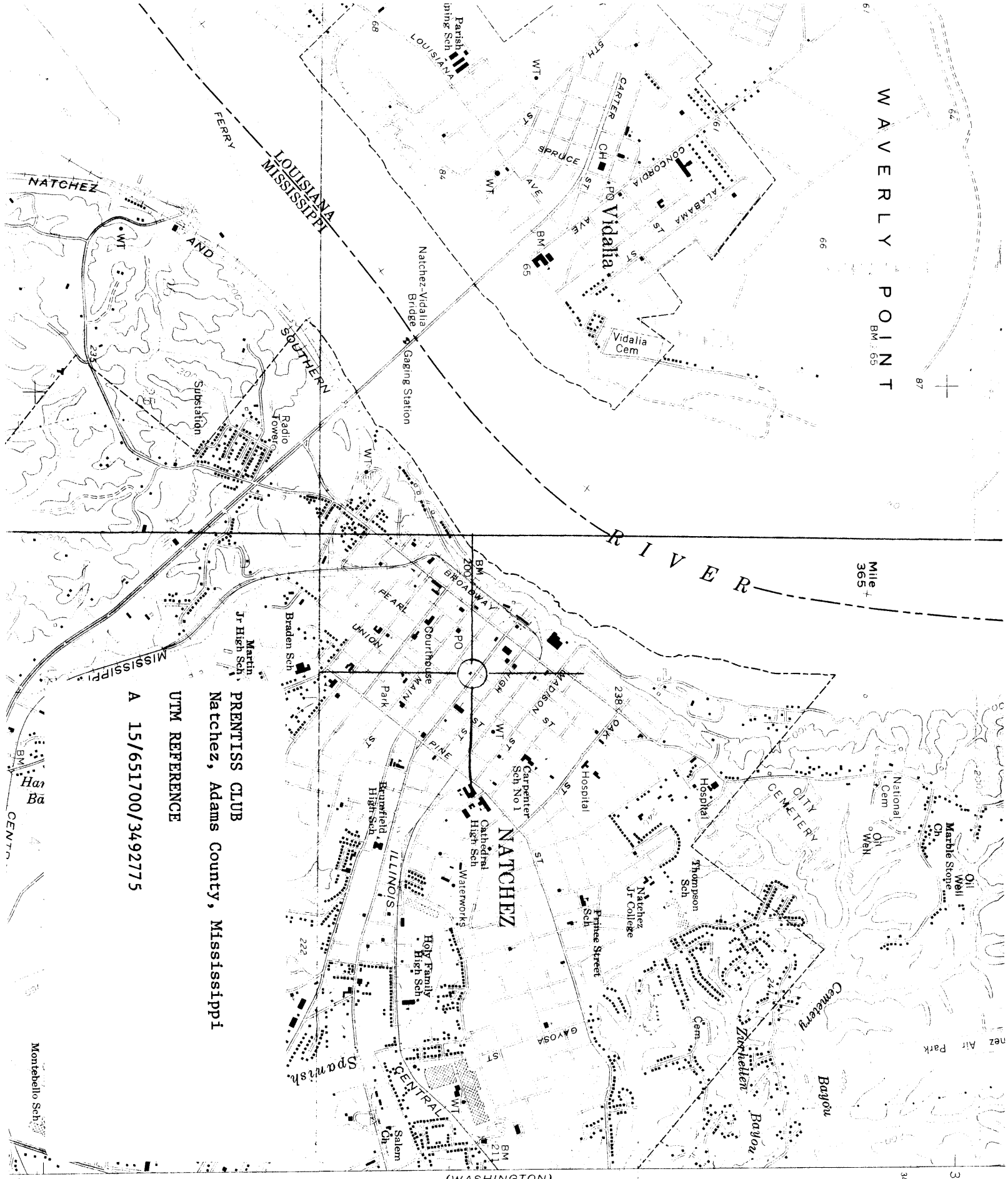
STREET

Prentiss Club
 Map 5
 Block 1
 Sheet 3

84.8'	15.4'	41.17' 90	140.96'
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WAVERLY POINT
BM: 65

Mile
365



PRENTISS CLUB
 Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi
 UTM REFERENCE
 A 15/651700/3492775

(WASHINGTON)
 2747 III SE

32/30'

3495
 35'