

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0673927

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 1 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 3 1979

**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

The Burn

AND/OR COMMON

The Burn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

307 Oak Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Adams

CODE

1

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben L. Harper

STREET & NUMBER

307 Oak Street

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
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

1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

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

Situated on a high knoll rising from the western side of North Union Street in the northern suburbs of the old town area of Natchez, The Burn is a story-and-a-half frame Greek Revival house set upon a brick basement half raised in the front and fully raised in the rear. The gabled roof is pierced by four inside end brick chimneys, and by two gabled dormers on the front slope, and a large shed dormer on the rear slope, added ca. 1940. The easterly facade is a five-bay composition. The weatherboarded end bays are defined by pilasters with applied rectilinear bands of Grecian design resting upon a wide molded base and supporting an elaborately enriched full entablature of the Greek Doric order. The base and the entablature break forward before the three plastered central bays to define a pedimented portico supported by fluted Greek Doric columns. The columns are linked by a railing of rectangular-sectioned balusters with richly molded hand and base rails. The portico is adorned by molded panels set into the soffit of the entablature and by a thermal window set into the matched boards of the tympanum.

The windows of the plastered front section are set above molded panels, and the plastered wall is finished with a molded base with two fasciae that matches the bases of the first-floor interior and the upstairs hall. All windows of the house contain six-over-six double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds. The entrance consists of a full entablature supported by attached half-round fluted columns and pilasters. The single-leaf eight-panel molded door is surrounded by a transom and side lights set over molded panels.

The interior design of The Burn is a double-pile central-hall plan. Door and window surrounds have two fasciae and molded architraves, and windows are set over molded panels. Rooms on the northerly side of the house are separated by sliding doors carrying full entablatures supported by symmetrically molded pilasters that are elaborations of the door and window architraves. All rooms except the southerly front room have original wooden mantels with attached half-round Greek Doric columns supporting entablatures. The southerly front room has a mid-nineteenth-century mantel with cartouche. The four main downstairs rooms have original elaborate plaster ceiling pieces. Cornices of an earlier period design, chair railing in the dining room, and an upstairs ceiling piece, however, are later additions.

The outstanding architectural feature of The Burn is the staircase, which rises in a short straight flight along the southerly hall wall before making a graceful half-circular turn through space to terminate in the upstairs hall. The newel is composed of a series of turned balusters, and the stair is adorned with ornamental brackets. Upstairs, the four bedrooms and the portico room have two-panel molded doors, architrave door and window surrounds, and simply beaded bases. The front two bedrooms have wooden architrave mantel-pieces, while the larger rear bedrooms have finer pilastered mantelpieces.

A partially enclosed original service stair leads from the upstairs hall to the double-tiered rear gallery, which is entered from the main floor by a frontispiece doorway identical to the front. The upper gallery has been enclosed and extended on the end bays but remains open across the central bays, where it is supported by original round Doric columns. A double flight of stairs, not original, leads to the ground-level gallery, which is supported by brick piers. The raised basement is divided into four rooms, all extensively renovated. One room appears to have served originally as a winter kitchen. An original brick two-story hipped-roof outbuilding has been converted into guest accommodations. The second-story gallery of the four-room building was originally connected to the main house by a railed walk to the second-story rear gallery of the latter.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1834 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Montgomery and Keys

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burn, a beautifully detailed and proportioned suburban structure, is the oldest documented Greek Revival residence in Natchez. (Britton and Koontz First National Bank, originally The Agricultural Bank, constructed in 1833, is the earliest documented Greek Revival building. An 1832 date attributed to the front of Richmond has not been substantiated.)

The Burn was constructed in 1834 (Clarence A. Walworth, The Walworths of America [Albany, New York: Weed-Parsons Printing Co., 1897], p. 129) as the residence of John P. Walworth, wealthy planter, merchant, banker, and politician (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi [Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891], II, 981). The builder of the house was the firm of Montgomery and Keys (spelled variously as Keyes), which, in an 1837 proposal (subsequently adopted) to erect the west wing and the west kitchen of the National Register of Historic Places property Historic Jefferson College, suggested that the college board members take a "squint" at the Walworth house in the northern part of the city for an example of the firm's work (Jefferson College papers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Z59, folder 69).

John P. Walworth was born in Aurora, New York, in 1798, and came to Natchez by way of Cleveland, Ohio (Walworth, pp. 129-30) in 1819 (Memoirs, II, 981). His first job was as a clerk in the Natchez post office (Ibid.) but by 1825 he and his brother Horace had established their own mercantile business in Natchez (The Ariel, Nov. 7, 1825, p. 7). In 1827, Walworth married Sarah Wren, daughter of Woodsen Wren, an early Natchez postmaster and organizer of Masonic lodges in Mississippi (Natchez Daily Courier, Apr. 10, 1855, p. 2). In 1833, Walworth became president of The Planters' Bank. Later he served Natchez as mayor and alderman (Memoirs, II, 981). By 1860, Walworth had accumulated real estate valued at \$300,000 and personal property at \$26,000 (Population Schedules, Adams Co., Miss., 1860, p. 31), making him one of the wealthiest men in Adams County. Listed in the 1860 census as a planter, his working plantations were located across the Mississippi River in Louisiana and Arkansas (Memoirs, II, 981).

According to family tradition, The Burn received its historic name at the time of its construction. The Scottish word for "brook" was chosen because a small brook originally flowed through the property (Alice Walworth Graham, great-granddaughter of John P. Walworth, interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, research consultant, at Natchez, Feb. 12, 1979). An 1881 deed is the first legal reference to the house by its historic name (Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book XX:136). According to the 1864 map of the defenses of Natchez, The Burn was located within Fort McPherson, the Union fortification in Natchez, and family tradition maintains that the house was used as a Union hospital during the war (Graham). Photographs of the house taken during the Union occupation of Natchez show Union soldiers on the porch (Mr. and Mrs. Reuben L. Harper, The Burn, Natchez, Miss.).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books XX, 4T, 13Z.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY slightly less than two acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 6,5,2,2,2,0 3,4,9,3,1,8,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached photocopy of city tax map with nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on Map 9, block 3, parcel 41.

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

Mary Warren Miller, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Private Consultant

DATE

February 12, 1979

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

Edward R. Millard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 7-3-79

Charles Adams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Jann H. Gilmore*

DATE 7/2/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

After the deaths of John Walworth and his wife, The Burn became the property of their son, Douglas, who was adjutant general to William T. Martin, Confederate general from Natchez, with whom he was also associated in a law practice (Memoirs, II, 981). Douglas Walworth was a state legislator in 1859-60 (Ibid.) and served many years as editor of The Daily Democrat in Natchez (The Daily Democrat, Jan. 3, 1893, p. 2). His antebellum mansion, Elmo, was seized by the Union army, converted to a Negro school, and eventually destroyed by fire (Graham). The Burn remained in the Walworth family until 1935 (Deed Book 4T:244). In 1978, the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Reuben L. Harper (Deed Book 13Z:412), who have undertaken extensive renovation of the house and grounds. The Burn is open daily to tourists and has been on the Natchez Pilgrimage tour.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Graham, Alice Walworth, great-granddaughter of John P. Walworth. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, private consultant, at Natchez, Feb. 12, 1979.

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jefferson College papers.

Natchez Daily Courier, Apr. 10, 1855.

The Ariel [Natchez], Nov. 7, 1825.

The Daily Democrat [Natchez], Jan. 3, 1893.

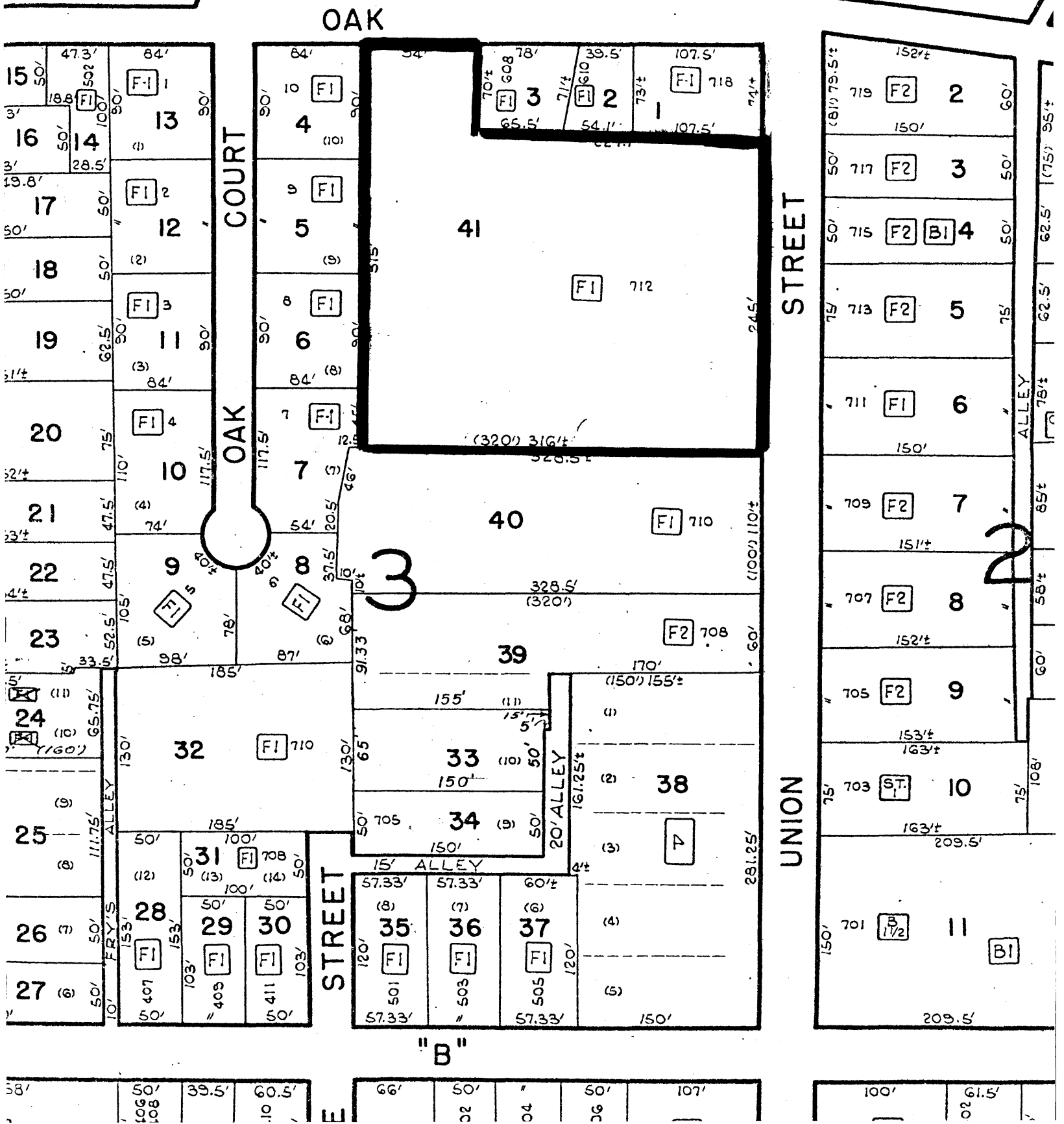
United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Adams Co., Miss., 1830-1860.

Walworth, Clarence A. The Walworths in America. Albany, New York: Weed-Parsons Printing Co., 1897.

THE BOARD
MAP 9
Block 2

12

1079



OAK

COURT
OAK

STREET

UNION

3

2

"B"

58' 50' 39.5' 60.5' 66' 50' 04 50' 107' 100' 61.5'

THE BURN

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

An 1834 RESIDENCE known as ~~THE BURN~~^{WHICH} WAS BUILT BY CLARENCE A. WALWORTH, A LOCALLY IMPORTANT PLANTER, MERCHANT, BANKER AND POLITICIAN, ~~WHO~~^{HAS BEEN} LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. THE BUILDER WAS THE FIRM OF MONTGOMERY AND KEYES. WALWORTH CAME TO MISSISSIPPI FROM NEW YORK WHERE HE ESTABLISHED A MERCHANTILE BUSINESS, BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE PLANTER'S BANK, AND LATER BECAME MAYOR AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF NATCHEZ. WALWORTH BECAME ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN ADAMS COUNTY, OWNING PLANTATIONS IN LOUISIANA AND ARKANSAS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL TRADITION, THE HOUSE SERVED AS A UNION HOSPITAL DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

LOCATED IN THE OLD TOWN AREA OF NATCHEZ, THIS GREEK REVIVAL RESIDENCE IS A 1 1/2 STORY FRAME HOUSE SET ON A HIGH BASEMENT WITH A FRONT PORCH SUPPORTED BY FLUTED IONIC COLUMNS. NOBLES FOR MUCH OF ITS ORIGINAL INTERIOR WOODWORK. THE INTERIOR OF THE CENTRAL-HALL PLAN CONTAINS AN ELABORATE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE. AN ORIGINAL BRICK, 2 STORY SUCCESSION REMAINS ON THE PROPERTY AND WAS ONCE CONNECTED TO THE MAINHOUSE BY A RAIL WALKWAY ^{BRICKING} TO ~~BRICK~~ ^{BRICKING} ~~DOWN~~ DOUBLE-TIERED GALLERY.



THE BURN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

February 13, 1979

DOE
JUL 3 1979

506 High St. - Natchez, MS 39120

The facade of The Burn, showing its brick
outbuilding on the northern side of the
house; looking westerly.

Photo 1 of 6

MAY 1 1979



THE BURN

JUL ^{DOE} 3 1979

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

February 13, 1979

506 High St. - Natchez, MS 39120

The facade of the two-story, brick outbuilding
with upper gallery enclosed; looking
westerly.

Photo 2 of 6

MAY 1 1979



DOE

JUL 3 1979

THE BURN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

February 13, 1979

506 High St. - Natchez, MS 39120

The rear gallery and doorway of The Burn;
looking easterly.

Photo 3 of 6

MAY 1 1979



THE BURN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

February 13, 1979.

506 High St. - Natchez, MS 39120

The stairway of The Burn, looking westerly.

Photo 4 of 6

MAY 1 1979

POE

JUL 3 1979



THE BURN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary Warren Miller

JUL 3^{DOE} 1979

February 13, 1979

506 High St. - Natchez, MS 39120

A copy of an old photograph of The Burn,
taken during the Union occupation of
Natchez and showing Union soldiers at The
Burn; looking westerly.

Photo 5 of 6

MAY 1 1979



THE BURN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi *DOE*

Mary Warren Miller

JUL 3 1979

February 13, 1979

506 High St. - Natchez, MS 39120

A copy of an old photograph of The Burn, taken during the Union occupation of Natchez and showing Union soldiers at The Burn; looking westerly.

Photo 6 of 6

MAY 1 1979