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The many projections gave external expression to almost every room in the asymmetric plan. The varied lines of the high multiple roofs, the several forms and arrangements of the rectangular windows, and the differing textures of the wall surfaces contributed to the picturesque effect. This effect, though highly irregular, was achieved within the precise geometric controls of a complex system of three-dimensionally interlocking verticals and horizontals.

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The major vertical divisions of the west elevation were established by three elements: a gable projection, a porch, and a tower. Over the three northern bays of the five bay facade, the gable projected forward from the steep, woodshingled roof and its decoratively paneled brick chimneys. Beneath the gable, the facade wall containing the two outer bays was brought forward to establish a plane which was carried across the three southern bays by the porch, railed on both levels but roofed on the upper level only by the gable projecting over the center bay. Though attached to the south end of the building, the three-story tower visually constituted the third vertical element of the front elevation. These three elements were linked by emphasized bands marking the horizontal divisions. At eaves level, a small-scale dentil cornice wrapped around the gable projection, across the main body of the house, and around the side and its tower. Similarly, the moldings at both floor levels continued in the plane of the gable projection across the porch to the corner where they returned to embrace the tower. The areas between these moldings and the window sills above formed wide bands, the upper marked on the projection by round-butt shingles, on the porch by railing, and on the tower by a concave, shingled pent roof supported by brackets, and the lower marked by applied boards rather than shingles.

Contrasting paint, as shown in an old photograph, once emphasized the geometric organization of the structure as well as the small-scale detailing which contributed to the overall effect of variety. Against the light pediment of the gable end, for instance, dark paint picked out the centered palladian window and the boards applied to suggest dentils and half timbering. Similar painting decorated the tower which, though attached to the house to form bay windows on the first and second stories, emerged in the third story as a full octagon crowned by a tall, pyramidal roof. The upper sash of the windows on the third story of the tower were filled with small,

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rectangular panes of colored glass like those which, in various arrangements, trimmed the upper sash of the shuttered windows on the facade. The facade windows opening onto the porch were floor length and, when raised, allowed passage to the porch. The porch was supported by chamfered posts and railed by turned balusters. Over each section of railing, curved brackets and latticework formed arches. The arch shape was repeated in the colored glass light set in the upper half of the front door, located in a recessed entranceway in the center bay.

Major alterations were made, ca. 1928, to the exterior of the house greatly changing its character and obscuring the geometric relationship of its parts. The front porch was replaced by a giant order, flat-roofed portico projecting forward from the center of the gable cornice and extending to the south across the facade. Four Ionic columns support the full entablature (modillion and dentil cornice, disc frieze, and stepped architrave). Iron balconies were placed before each of the second-floor, floor-length windows and the pyramidal roof of the tower was replaced by a balustraded flat one. Minor alterations include the removal of most of the shutters, the relocation of the colored-glass sashes, the enclosure of the rear galleries, and the addition of a sleeping porch to the rear gallery. The interior is very nearly as it originally was, though bathrooms have been added on the second floor.

On the interior of the house, the front door opens to a large hall with a stair of three flights leading up to the second floor beneath a stepped arrangement of three, coloredglass windows set in the north wall. From the hall, ten-foothigh doors give access to the three formal rooms: the library in the gable projection, the parlor in the projection to the tower, and the dining room in the rear extension. The fourteenfoot-high ceilings of all these rooms are decorated by rectilinear plaster medallions. The three formal rooms contain marble mantelpieces. The parlor is further embellished at the entrance to the tower bay by a depressed arch with corbels and pendant keystone. The dining room is wainscoted by narrow, vertical, beaded boards. To the rear of the dining room, and perpendicular to its axis, is the service wing containing, from north to south, the kitchen, the breakfast room, and the back stairhall. The back stairhall opens to an "L" shaped, two-story gallery recessed beneath the roof along the south wall of the dining room and the east wall of the parlor. 0n the second floor of the main house, a bedroom is located over each of the three formal downstairs rooms. A passageway separates these upstairs bedrooms from the two located in the service wing.

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Built for Major Reuben Webster Millsaps in the late nineteenth century, the magnificent Buie House stands today as a fitting testimonial to one of Mississippi's outstanding citizens. When the dwelling was completed ca. 1888, Major Millsaps had already distinguished himself as a leading financier and philanthropist. Yet productive years remained.

Reuben Webster Millsaps was born on May 30, 1833, in Pleasant Valley -- a rural community in Copiah County, Mississip-His parents, Reuben M. and Lavinia (Clower) Millsaps, had pi. emigrated from South Carolina to Mississippi in the 1820s, and the elder Millsaps farmed and taught school in the small vil-Reuben Webster, the second son in a family of nine lage. children, attended the local school until his seventeenth year, and then traveled by steamboat to Madison, Indiana, where he matriculated at Hanover College in 1850. After attending Hanover for two years, he transferred to nearby Asbury College (now DePauw University) where he finished his literary course in 1854. Millsaps then taught for two years on the farm of one Colonel Glass, a wealthy Vicksburg planter, and, after accumulating the necessary funds, entered the Harvard Law He graduated in law in 1858, and shortly thereafter School. established a practice in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The practice of law, however, was abandoned with the outbreak of the Civil War. Millsaps joined the Ninth Arkansas Infantry, Company A, in July, 1861, and was elected lieutenant. After distinguishing himself at Shiloh where he was wounded, he was appointed lieutenant colonel of his regiment and served with valor at the Battle of Champion Hill. Millsaps then joined General Braxton Bragg's army in Georgia and was later transferred to the Inspector's Department where he became Inspector-General of General William W. Loring's division. He attained the rank of major in July, 1864, and fought again with General Bragg in the latter's Tennessee campaign. Major Millsaps received a second wound at Nashville. After his recovery,

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he foined General Joseph E. Johnston's army and took part in the last fighting of the eastern theatre at Bentonville in North Carolina.

Though Major Millsaps returned to his law practice in Arkansas at the close of hostilities, he soon became disenchanted and returned to Mississippi. His successful career as a businessman and financier was launched here when he formed a partnership with his brother, William G. Millsaps, for buying and selling cotton. After substantial financial success, the brothers opened a mercantile business in Brookhaven, Mississippi, in 1869. It was also in 1869 that Major Millsaps married Mary F. Beanne, the daughter of a prominent New Orleans banker. After several successful years in Brookhaven, Millsaps, who had previously bought out his brother's interest, sold the business and established a wholesale warehouse with W. I. Magee in St. Louis, Major Millsaps retired with a fortune after four years Missouri. in St. Louis, and he and his wife, with their one daughter, Josie Buie Millsaps (later Mrs. Gus T. Fitzhugh), traveled for a year in Europe. Upon their return from abroad, Major and Mrs. Millsaps settled in Jackson and there lived the remainder of their lives.

Reuben Webster Millsaps' business and financial interests were numerous and varied. He was an organizer of the Bank of Hazlehurst (1882), the Planters Bank, Clarksdale (1896), the Bank of Forest (1901), the Capitol National Bank and Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company (the latter two organized in Jackson, in 1903). Further, Millsaps served at various times as president of the Capitol State Bank (liquidated in 1888), Capitol National Bank, Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company, and as a director of the Jackson State National Bank, the First National Bank of Greenville, the First National Bank of Vicksburg, the Bank of Forest, and the three above mentioned Jackson institutions. In addition, he was a stockholder in the Brookhaven Bank and Trust Company, the Hibernia Bank and Trust Company of New Orleans, and several other Mississippi banks. Though banking was Millsaps' primary concern, he also served on the board of directors of the Jackson Fertilizer Company and of the Illinois Central Railroad, was one of the incorporators of the Jackson Light, Heat and Water Company which was chartered in 1888, was elected first vice-president of the newly-formed Jackson Board of Trade in 1888, and had large land-holdings in the Mississippi Delta.

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That Reuben Webster Millsaps was an astute and dynamic man in Mississippi's business and financial world is undeniable. That he was a leading figure in the educational, philanthropic, and religious life of the state is also a point of fact. Because his own life was so exemplary of the difficulty of obtaining an education in that era, Major Millsaps had promised in his young manhood that "If God prospers me I will make it possible for every young man desiring a Christian education to get it within the borders of our State." And, he did.

When the question of a denominational college was raised in 1889 at a joint meeting of the Mississippi and North Mississippi Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Major Millsaps pledged fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of such an institution, providing an equal sum could be procured from Methodists throughout the state. When Bishop Charles Betts Galloway's torrid campaign to raise the funds proved successful, Jackson, Mississippi, was chosen as the site, and Millsaps College subsequently opened its doors in the fall, 1892. Millsaps' support of the institution did not terminate with that first endowment. His contributions eventually totalled one-half million dollars and included the President's Home, Asbury Hall, Founder's Hall, Webster Science Hall, student cottages, one hundred acres of land, and other valuable properties in the city of Jackson.

In addition to his support of Millsaps College, this generous man gave liberally of his time and wealth to the Methodist Orphanage, the Y.M.C.A., the American Red Cross and numerous charities. Always a bulwark of Mississippi Methodism, Major Millsaps was a regular delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church, a Sunday School teacher for twenty-five years, and a steward for forty-five years. For a time, he served as president of the board of stewards of the First Methodist Church of Jackson (later Galloway Memorial--the erection of which was made possible by his generosity). Then too, Millsaps, as a close personal friend of Bishop Galloway, worked closely with the latter for the prohibition cause in Mississippi.

When Major Millsaps died on June 28, 1916, the magnificent residence at 628 North State Street passed to his nephew and protege, Webster Millsaps Buie. Buie's paternal grandparents, Gilbert and Catherine Buie, migrated to Mississippi from North Carolina sometime between 1805 and 1810. Webster's father, Joseph Paisley Buie, married Major Millsaps' sister, Sarah

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Elizabeth. Their only son was born in Vidalia, Louisiana, on September 6, 1880. The elder Buie, who became a prominent attorney and jurist in the Natchez district, died when Webster was only eleven months old, and the latter was brought to Brookhaven where he was given a home and raised as a son by Major Millsaps.

After graduating from high school in Brookhaven, Buie matriculated at Millsaps College at the urgings of his uncle. He remained there for two sessions seeking a literary degree and then dropped out of the liberal arts school to attend a business Upon completion of his business course, Buie became college. a draft collector for the Capitol State Bank of Jackson and eventually assumed the vice presidency of the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company. Webster Buie married Joe Ellis in September, 1907. The daughter of Dr. Joseph Warren and Adah Lowry Ellis, she was raised, after her father's untimely death, in the home of her grandfather, Governor Robert Lowry of Missis-The couple would become the parents of three daughters sippi. and two sons. In 1911, Buie resigned his position in the Citizens Savings Bank to serve as Major Millsaps' private secretary until the latter's death in 1916. Buie also resumed his education at Millsaps College in this period, graduating from a law course in 1912.

Webster Millsaps Buie's capabilities heralded a steady rise in Mississippi's business and financial world. In fact, his credits rival Major Millsaps' in magnitude. Buie was elected vice-president, trust officer and to the board of directors of the Capitol National Bank. He reassumed the vice-presidency of the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company and also served on the board of directors of that institution. Further, he served as president and as a director of the Capital Loan and Investment Company, as vice-president and a director of the Southern Building and Loan Association, as vice-president of the Bank of Flora (Mississippi) and the Mississippi School Supply Company, and as a director of the Bank of Forest, the Mississippi Bond and Investment Company, the Morris Ice Company, and the Jackson Fertilizer Company.

Webster Buie was also an important and dynamic figure in the civic, religious, and educational life of Jackson and the state of Mississippi. His devotion to education in Mississippi is reflected in the fact that for fourteen years he served as treasurer of the board of trustees of Millsaps College. In addition, Buie served at various times on the board of trustees for Whitworth College and the Utica Industrial Institute for

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the Colored. Active in civic and charitable affairs, Webb Buie was treasurer of the Mississippi Orphans Home, president of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, a founder of the present Young Men's Christian Association, and president of the Jackson Lions Club. He also served the federal government during World War I as state director for the War Savings Stamps campaign.

An ardent Methodist, as was Major Millsaps, Webster Buie was an active member of the Galloway Memorial Methodist Church. For twelve years, he served as president of the board of stewards. In 1918, he was a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held at Atlanta and, in 1921, he was a representative at the Ecumenical Conference in London. When Webster Millsaps Buie died suddenly in February, 1930, the board of stewards of Galloway Memorial Church resolved: "This church and this entire community has been made better and more Christian by his life among us, his generous heart and liberal gifts of time, labor, solicitude and money . . ."

After her husband's death in 1930, Mrs. Buie remained in the North State Street residence and continues today to make it her home.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Mississippi

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Ronald W. Miller, Architectural Historian Mississippi Department of Archives and History Post Office Box 571 Jackson, Mississippi 39205





FORM 10-301 A (6/72)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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