1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:** Auburn
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** Duncan Park
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Natchez
   - **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 4
   - **STATE:** Mississippi
   - **COUNTY:** Adams

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - **CATEGORY (Check One):**
     - [ ] District
     - [X] Building
     - [ ] Site
     - [ ] Structure
     - [ ] Object
   - **OWNERSHIP:**
     - [X] Public
     - [ ] Private
     - [ ] Both
   - **STATUS:**
     - [X] Occupied
     - [ ] Unoccupied
     - [ ] Preservation work in progress
   - **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
     - [ ] Yes: Restricted
     - [X] Unrestricted

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - **OWNER'S NAME:** City of Natchez (Mayor and Board of Aldermen)
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** City Hall
   - **STATE:** Mississippi

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** Office of the Chancery Clerk
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** Adams County Courthouse
   - **STATE:** Mississippi

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - **TITLE OF SURVEY:** Historic American Buildings Survey (7 photos)
   - **DATE OF SURVEY:** 1936
   - **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** Division of Prints and Photographs
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** Library of Congress
   - **STATE:** D. C.
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.
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 Yankee, 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.
7. Description

Auburn, Natchez, Mississippi

First floor plan
## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- [Link to bibliography source]

## GEOPHICAL DATA

### Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>31° 32' 44&quot;</td>
<td>91° 21' 36&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>31° 32' 44&quot;</td>
<td>91° 21' 30&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>31° 32' 40&quot;</td>
<td>91° 21' 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>31° 32' 40&quot;</td>
<td>91° 21' 36&quot;</td>
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**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** 4.2 acres

### Listing All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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</table>

## FORM PREPARED BY

**Name and Title:**

Paul Goeldner, Architect, Historic Sites Survey

**Organization:**

Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys
National Park Service

**Street and Number:**

1100 L Street NW.

**City or Town:**

Washington

**State and Code:**

District of Columbia 11

## STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Name**

[Signature]

**Title**

[Signature]

**Date**

[Signature]
1. NAME
COMMON: Auburn
AND/OR HISTORIC: 
NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS): 

2. LOCATION
STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Adams
TOWN: Natchez

3. STREET AND NUMBER
Duncan Park

4. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT
NPS/ Paul Goeldner
DATE: November 1973
NEGATIVE FILED AT
Historic Sites Survey
National Park Service

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Exterior from north.
Interior second floor hall toward front.