

NHL

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Adams
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Auburn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Duncan Park

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Natchez (Mayor and Board of Aldermen)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
City Hall

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 (7 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  
 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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**B. 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) 1812

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" 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

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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 delights 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 Yankey, 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

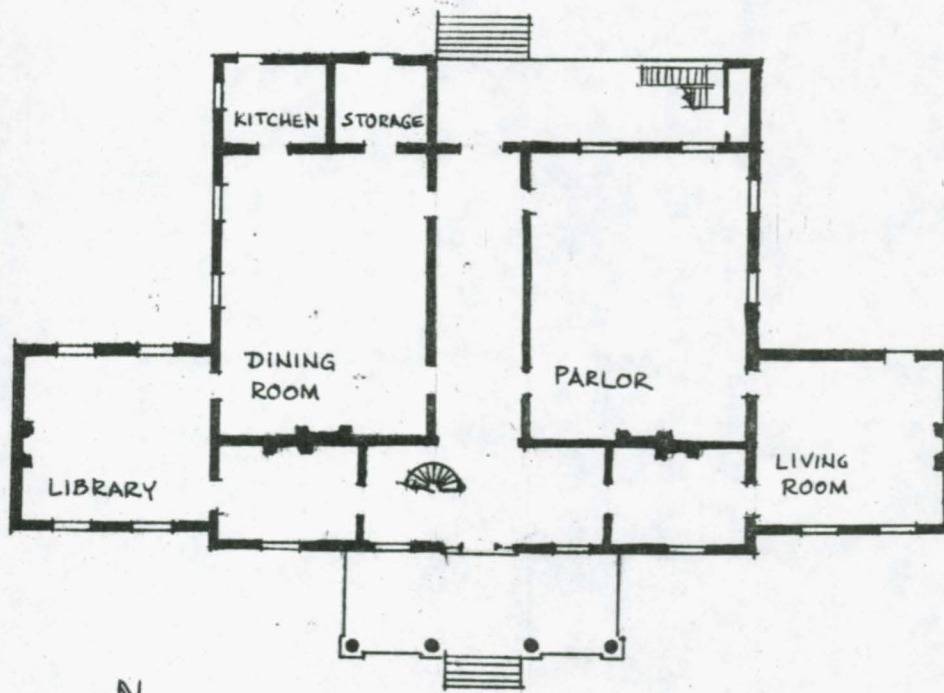
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Adams	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) 7. Description

Auburn, Natchez, Mississippi



First floor plan

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for 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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	31°	32'	44"	91°	23'	36"			
NE	31°	32'	44"	91°	23'	30"			
SE	31°	32'	40"	91°	23'	30"			
SW	31°	32'	40"	91°	23'	36"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.2 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

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 11

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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON Auburn	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE Mississippi	COUNTY Adams	TOWN Natchez
STREET AND NUMBER Duncan Park		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT NPS/ Paul Goeldner	DATE November 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Sites Survey National Park Service
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior from north. Interior second floor hall toward front.		

GPO 932-009

Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Adams	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

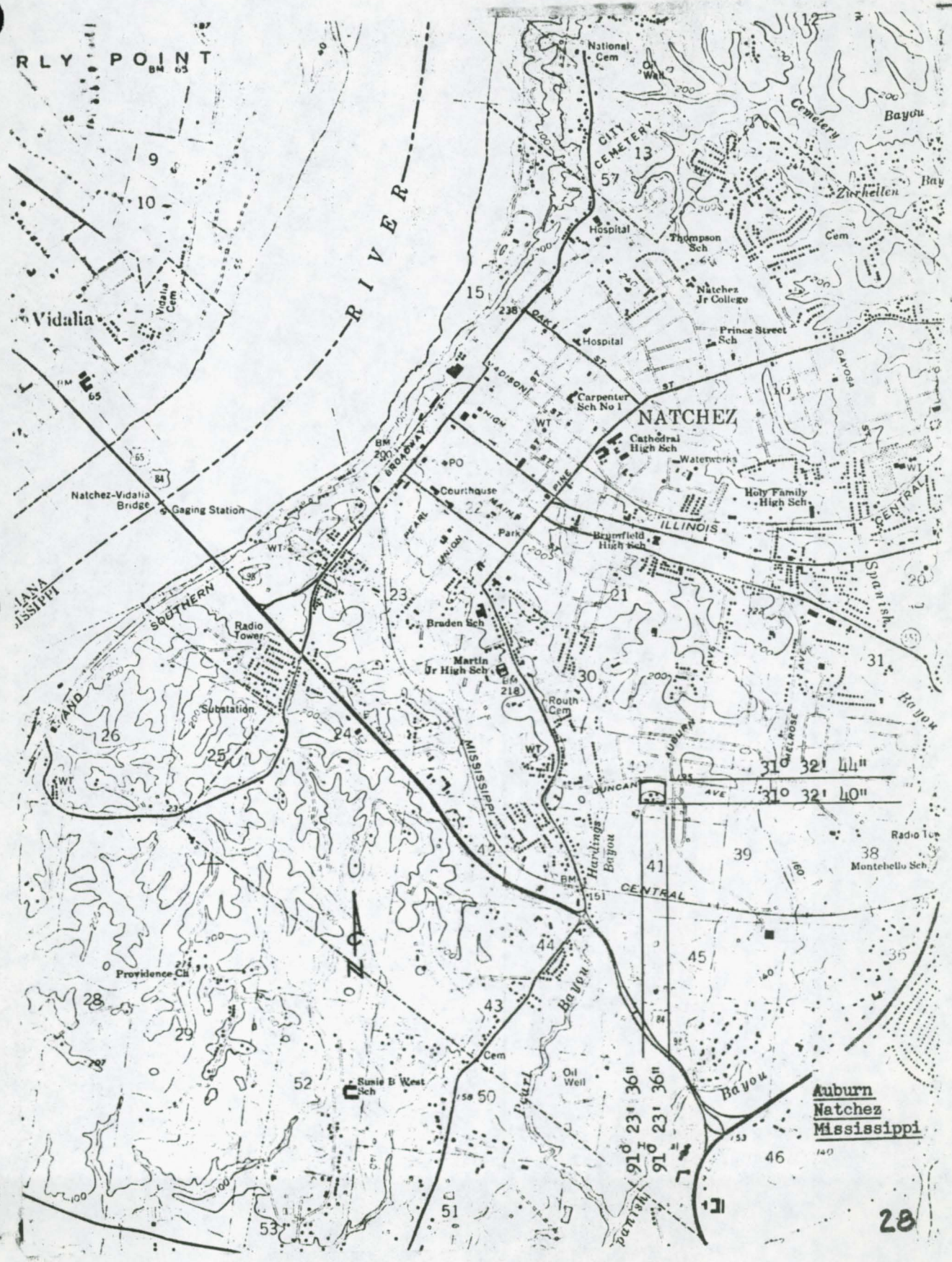
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Auburn			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Duncan Park			
CITY OR TOWN: Natchez			
STATE: Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Adams	CODE 001
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series, Natchez Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1 : 24,000			
DATE: 1963			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

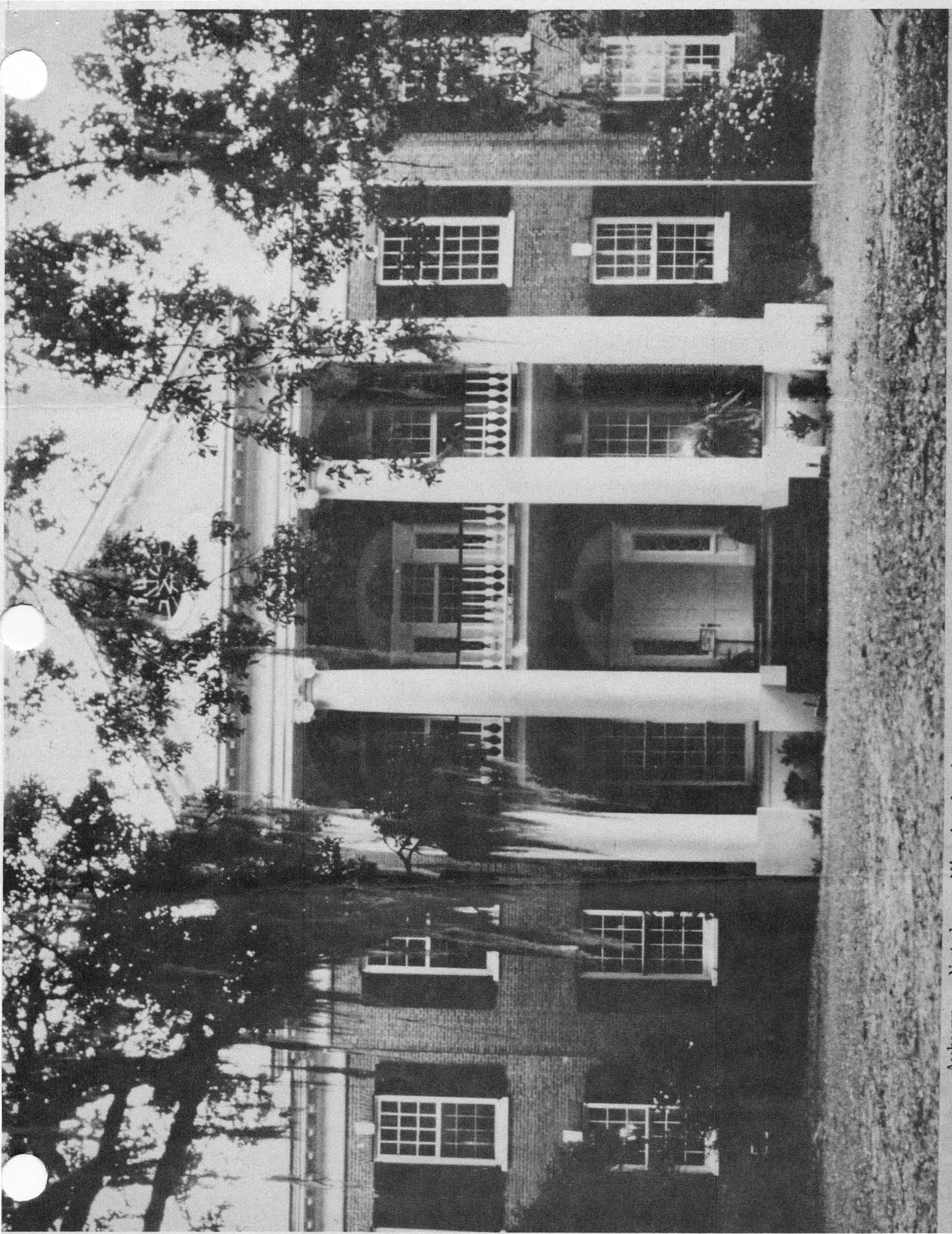
PLY POINT

Vidalia

NATCHEZ

Auburn  
Natchez  
Mississippi





Auburn, Natchez, Mississippi

NPS Photo 1973





Auburn, Natchez, Mississippi

NPS Photo 1973