

PH 366790

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 1 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

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  
Gloucester  
AND/OR COMMON  
Bellevue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S of Natchez  
Lower Woodville Road  
CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF Fourth  
STATE Mississippi CODE 28 COUNTY Adams CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Miss Anne Morrison  
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 235  
CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Adams County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Market Street  
CITY, TOWN Natchez STATE Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (6 sheets, 4 photos)  
DATE 1934-36  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gloucester is a large, two-story brick mansion located east of the Lower Woodville Road near Natchez, Mississippi. It is one of several prominent Neo-Classical "suburban villas" in the Natchez region, but is unique because its final form was reached through an artful renovation and enlargement program.

The original section of Gloucester, which was standing by 1807, consisted of a two-story, five-bay structure based on the single-pile plan. Flemish bond above a molded brick water table was employed on the front (north) elevation, and the remaining sides were constructed of five-course common bond without a water table. On the center axis was placed a well-proportioned frontispiece of paneled pilasters and returned cornice surrounding a double-leaf door and delicate semicircular transom. Flanking the entrance were narrow detached sidelights. Characteristically, the west wall (and possibly the east wall as well) was formed into a shallow three-sided bay.

The interior trim of the oldest section of Gloucester presents the finest extant Federal woodwork in Natchez. Entrances into both first-floor chambers are framed by pilasters supporting semicircular arches housing glazed transoms. Window architraves spring from paneled pedestals with fluted chamfers, and interior shutters (since removed) were fitted into splayed window reveals. Wooden interior cornices have delicate Wall of Troy, dentil, and "dotted i" moldings. The open well staircase in the center passage is treated with an elaborately ramped mahogany banister, which is mirrored by an equally elaborate chair rail. Marble mantels are installed in the two principal rooms: the mantel in the west chamber (the present drawing room) designed with Ionic columns, large five-part frieze, and shelf, and that in the east chamber of a much simpler, and in many ways more elegant, frame design.

During the Sargent ownership, Gloucester underwent an ambitious remodeling which established its present form. Because of the sophisticated design and technical skill apparent in the remodeling, it is generally believed to be the work of the prominent local architect, Levi Weeks, accomplished after his 1812 design of Auburn and before his death in 1819. An addition containing a stair hall, large dining room, and bedroom above was added to the east end of Gloucester. The new east wall of the house was treated as a semi-octagon which was a more pronounced than its western counterpart. Extension of the house required a connecting passage which decreased the size of the library (the former east chamber) and created a vista, framed by delicate elliptical arches, through the full length of the house. A three-bay portico of Tuscan columns supporting a thin entablature and pediment was placed on the center axis and a new frontispiece installed to match the existing entrance. The rear, or south, elevation received a five-bay gallery set between single-bay end cabinets. While not wholly consistent, the interior trim of the c. 1812-19 addition sought to reproduce and be compatible with that of the earlier section. Notable exceptions are the large, beautifully proportioned entablatures which were thought to be more "classical" than the traditional Georgian cornices. Twentieth century alterations to Gloucester have been limited to the closing of several windows in the drawing room in order to hang large paintings and the installation of a modern kitchen and bathrooms in the rear cabinets. To expand the kitchen working space, a small one-story frame structure was built in c. 1920.

Located a few yards east of the mansion stands a well-preserved two-story brick kitchen and quarters, and a similar brick garçonnerie. West of the Lower Woodville Road is the Gloucester cemetery, a small plot surrounded by a low brick wall and containing the impressive monuments of Governor Winthrop Sargent and Sargent S. Prentiss.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gloucester is one of the oldest and best-preserved suburban mansions in the Natchez region and is considered one of the best examples of Neo-Classical domestic architecture in the state. In addition, Gloucester is the only structure in Mississippi associated with its first territorial governor, Winthrop Sargent (1753-1820). The Gloucester cemetery is the only remaining site associated with Seargent S. Prentiss (1808-1850), an important figure in the early political history of the state and one of its most celebrated orators.

In 1807, Winthrop Sargent purchased "Bellevue" plantation from Abijah Hunt and re-named it "Gloucester" in honor of his birthplace in Massachusetts (Adams County Deed Book D, p. 49F). Included in the sale was a two-story, single-pile Federal residence which has been dated between 1796 and 1803 (Gloucester, National Historic Landmark Nomination, January 14, 1974). It was described by a contemporary as a "handsome brick house . . . [which] bespoke more taste and convenience than I had yet observed in the territory" (Cuming, p. 323). Sargent extended the house and added Neo-Classical porticoes to the front and rear elevations. These improvements are believed to be the work of local architect Levi Weeks, whose 1812 design for neighboring Auburn was the first in the territory "on which was attempted any of the Orders of Architecture" (Auburn, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1974). The portico, which was to become such an important feature in both Neo-Classical and Greek Revival domestic architecture, was at this time a relatively novel feature in Natchez buildings, and Weeks may be credited with its introduction at Auburn and its use at Gloucester. Further, the clever extension of Gloucester, which was so carefully blended with the existing structure that most seams are concealed, was beyond the capability of all but a sophisticated and talented architect such as Weeks.

By the time he purchased Gloucester, Winthrop Sargent had reached the end of a colorful public career. Having graduated from Harvard in 1771, he enlisted in the Continental Army at the outbreak of the American Revolution and served, according to General Washington, with "zeal, integrity and intelligence" as aide-de-camp to Major General Robert Howe (Rowland, History 1:344). In 1787, Sargent was elected secretary of the Ohio Company and later that same year was designated by Congress as secretary of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio. He held that position until 1798, when President Adams appointed him first governor of the Mississippi Territory. His administration was noted for the establishment of a territorial assembly and the appointment of territorial judges (National Cyclopedia of American Biography, p. 485). Despite these advances, Sargent became unpopular with the local citizenry as a result of his Federalist politics in general and his system of fees in particular. When President Thomas Jefferson refused to reappoint him governor, in 1801, Sargent retired from public life. He continued to be active in the American Academy of Arts

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed books, D, F, N, GG, PP, VV, 40. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Cuming, Fortescue. Sketches of a Tour of the Western Country. Pittsburgh: Cramer, Spear, and Eichbaum, 1810.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7-1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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6	5	1	7	2	0
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ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

August 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

# 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

*Elmer B. Hilliard*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*11/9/96*

ATTEST:

DATE

*11/1/76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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NOV 7 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

and Sciences, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Philosophical Society. To the latter, he contributed "Papers Relative to Certain American Antiquities," which was published in Transactions of the American Philosophical Society (Vol. 4, 1799). Sargent died in 1820 and was buried in the Gloucester cemetery (Dictionary of American Biography, 16:368-69).

In 1842, Sargent's niece, Mary Jane Williams, married Seargent Smith Prentiss, a native of Maine who had just completed his single term in Congress (1838-1839). Although his career in public office was brief, Prentiss gained wide recognition as one of America's premier political orators. Fellow whig Henry Clay described his art as:

. . . rich, chaste, and [with] boundless imagination. . . . His voice was fine, softer, and I think, improved, by a slight lisp, which an attentive observer could discern. The great theaters of eloquence and public speaking in the United States are the legislative hall, the forum, and the stump--without adverting to the pulpit. I have known some of my contemporaries eminently successful on one of those theaters, without being able to exhibit any remarkable ability on the others. Mr. Prentiss was brilliant and successful on them all (National Cyclopedia of American Biography, 7:477-79).

Edward Everett, himself a famous orator, described the scene of an 1838 reception at Faneuil Hall given in honor of Daniel Webster at which Prentiss spoke: "He took possession of the audience from the first sentence and carried them along with unabated interest, I think for above an hour. . . . Sitting by Mr. Webster, I asked him if he ever heard anything like it; he answered 'Never except from Mr. Prentiss himself'" (Rowland, Encyclopedia, p. 471).

Although he continued to be in demand as a public speaker, Prentiss retired from public office in 1839. He practiced law in Vicksburg until 1845 and in New Orleans until 1850. That year, he died at Longwood, near Natchez, and was buried at the Gloucester cemetery, the only known extant site to be associated with him.

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McGehee, Mildred. "From Piazzas to Porticoes: The Influence of Levi Weeks on Natchez  
Architecture." M.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1975.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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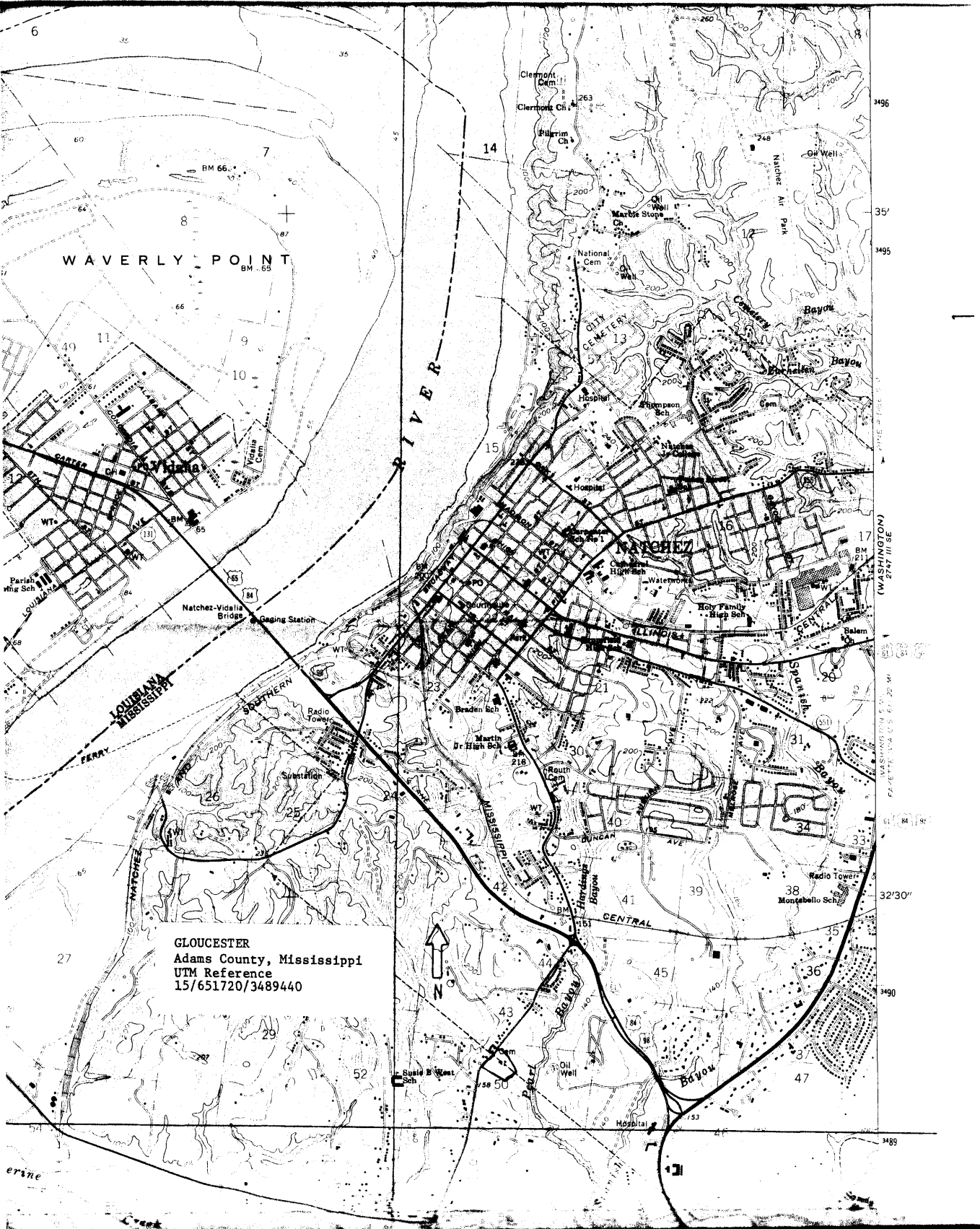
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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\_\_\_\_\_. History of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925.



WAVERLY POINT  
BM. 65

GLOUCESTER  
Adams County, Mississippi  
UTM Reference  
15/651720/3489440

WASHINGTON  
F. 247 (1:50,000)

erine  
Creek





Photo No. 1 - GLOUCESTER  
Vicinity of Natchez  
Adams County, Mississippi  
William C. Allen  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

June, 1976  
North elevation

OCT 1 1976

NOV 7 1976



Photo No. 2 - GLOUCESTER  
Vicinity of Natchez  
Adams County, Mississippi  
William C. Allen

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

June, 1976

Drawing room looking east

OCT 1 1976

NOV 7 1976



Photo No. 3 - GLOUCESTER  
Vicinity of Natchez  
Adams County, Mississippi  
William C. Allen  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History  
June, 1976  
Library looking southwest

OCT 1 1978

NOV 7 1976