

2-13-80

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Patrick Murphy House

and/or common Patrick Murphy House

**2. Location**

street & number 24 Irvine Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Natchez \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Fourth

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 1

**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 George Hamilton

street & number 9595 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 410

city, town Beverly Hills \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state California 90212

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Natchez \_\_\_\_\_ state Mississippi 39120

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the Patrick Murphy House faces east and is located on an eight-acre tract of land partially within the city limits of Natchez. The Italianate, T-shaped frame dwelling, which is set upon brick foundation piers, is composed of a northerly, small two-story section and a southerly, long one-story wing. The gable roof of the two-story portion is pierced by one central brick chimney, and the gable roof of the one-story wing is pierced by one interior brick chimney, now roofed over. Both sections of the house feature a dentiled cornice on all but the rear, or westerly elevation. The two-story section with gable-end facade is fronted by a one-story gallery with dentiled cornice that is supported by three, molded, chamfered columns set upon molded pedestals that are repeated in pilasters on the front wall. The cornice is bracketed above the columns, and the columns were originally linked by a jigsaw railing, now missing. The steps, which have rotted, were located on the side of the gallery on its southerly edge. The gable end of the two-story facade is further decorated with a vergeboard with pinnacle finial.

The facade of the two-story section is divided into two bays on the first story, and the second-story level features a pair of arched windows set within a single window frame with hood mold. The entrance doorway and all windows of the eastern and northern elevations of the two-story section are topped with hood molds, and the windows of the two-story section contain two-over-two, double-hung, arched window sash. The entrance doorway is located in the southernmost of the two front bays and opens into the first of two, identically trimmed rooms. The door and window surrounds have three fasciae and are richly molded; the doors are four-paneled and molded, and the wooden mantel pieces, which echo the gallery columns, have chamfered pilasters and are molded. The stairway, which is missing its newels and balusters, is entered on the southern wall of the rear room, or original dining room, makes a quarter turn with winders, and continues in a straight flight along the eastern wall to terminate in an upstairs hallway. The upstairs, which has been extensively remodeled and paneled, contains two bedrooms.

The one-story wing section of the house features an undercut front and rear gallery with the rear gallery having been enclosed to form a long hallway. The gable-end side, or southern elevation, is trimmed with vergeboard and pinnacle finial that match the treatment of the facade of the two-story section. The gallery of the wing facade is trimmed in identical fashion to the two-story section gallery with chamfered columns upon pedestals, brackets, and jigsaw railing. The chamfered columns divide the wing into five bays, but the front wall contains six door and window openings. The doors and windows, which contain six-over-six, double-hung sash, are plainly trimmed. The interior of the one-story wing has a single-pile plan, three rooms across. The mantel pieces, which are plainer in design than those in the two-story section, are wooden and pilastered. The bases have two fasciae and are molded.

In spite of its deteriorated condition, the Patrick Murphy House possesses great integrity. The only major alterations to the interior are the removal of the stairway millwork and lowered ceilings in the wing. Almost all of the original hardware survives. On the exterior, the two columns missing from the gallery of the two-story section are lying on the gallery floor along with sections of the jigsaw railing. Unfortunately, the rear gallery columns and railing were removed when that gallery was enclosed. No outbuildings are located on the eight-acre tract.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1872-80

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed between 1872 and 1880, the Patrick Murphy House is an outstanding example of a late nineteenth-century Italianate residence. The house is especially significant for Natchez, as buildings in the Italianate style constructed during this period are rare. The Patrick Murphy House and the Admiral A. S. Merrill House at 311 South Commerce Street (Natchez-on-Top-of-the-Hill Historic District) are probably the most outstanding late nineteenth-century examples of this style in Natchez. The significance of the Patrick Murphy House is further enhanced by its location on an eight-acre picturesque tract of land situated upon a high bluff affording a spectacular view of the Mississippi River.

Patrick Murphy purchased the tract of land upon which the house is constructed at public auction in 1872 (Adams Co. Deed Book TT:265); transferred the deed to Frank Arrighi in 1874 (Deed Book TT:466), probably to protect the property while Murphy was outside the United States; and again purchased the property from Arrighi in 1880 (Deed Book WW:715). Stylistically, the house appears to have been constructed about 1880. Patrick Murphy was a native of Ireland (The Daily Democrat [Natchez], Nov. 18, 1885, p. 2) who was listed as a resident of Tensas Parish, La., in 1873 (Deed Book TT:265). An 1872 contract with the Natchez and Jackson Railroad Company lists Murphy as one of three joint contractors for the construction of the first eleven miles of the road of that company (Deed Book SS:31). More specifically, Patrick Murphy was probably a levy contractor, since he came to Natchez from Tensas Parish, La., and since Charles Boyle was one of the joint contractors in the railroad venture. Charles Boyle was a prominent levy contractor who resided at the William Ailes House (Mary Warren Miller, William Ailes House, Miss. Department of Archives and History, Jackson), and the levy system along the Mississippi River apparently made upper middle class citizens of several Irish immigrant contractors involved in levy construction after the Civil War (See also, Mary Warren Miller, Dooley Place, Adams Co., National Register File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

In 1875, Murphy returned to Ireland and married Bryde Barron of Kilkenny County. The Murphys returned to America in 1876 and lived at St. Joseph, Tensas Parish, La., until they moved to Natchez in 1880 (The Natchez Democrat, June 11, 1929, p. 4). Patrick Murphy died in 1885 of typhoid pneumonia (The Daily Democrat [Natchez], Nov. 18, 1885, p. 2), and his widow Bryde sold the house in 1818 to Calvin Smith (Deed Book 4F:369). The Smith family subdivided the original eighty-acre tract, and Mrs. Ruth Smith Frazier, widow of Calvin Smith, sold the house to her daughter and son-in-law, Ruth Frazer Dumas and Albert Dumas in 1963 (Deed Book 9R:306). In 1969, Rosalie Johnson purchased the property (Deed Book 11H:583) which she recently sold to movie actor George Hamilton (Deed Book 14S:388), a partner in the firm of G. H. Investments, Inc. This firm intends to restore the house and sympathetically adapt it for restaurant use. The proposed renovations involve a one-story addition to the northern elevation of the two-story section that will match the one-story wing except the new addition will be one room wide and two rooms deep.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8 acres

Quadrangle name Natchez

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	6	5	0	3	5	5	3	4	9	1	6	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is located on city tax map 62, block 2, parcel 13 and on county tax map 217, block 1, parcel 6A. The house is located within the city limits.

### 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 Self-employed private consultant date December 21, 1979

street & number 506 High Street telephone 442-9786 (area code 601)

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer date February 13, 1980

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

1

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books SS, TT, WW, 4F, 9R, 11H.

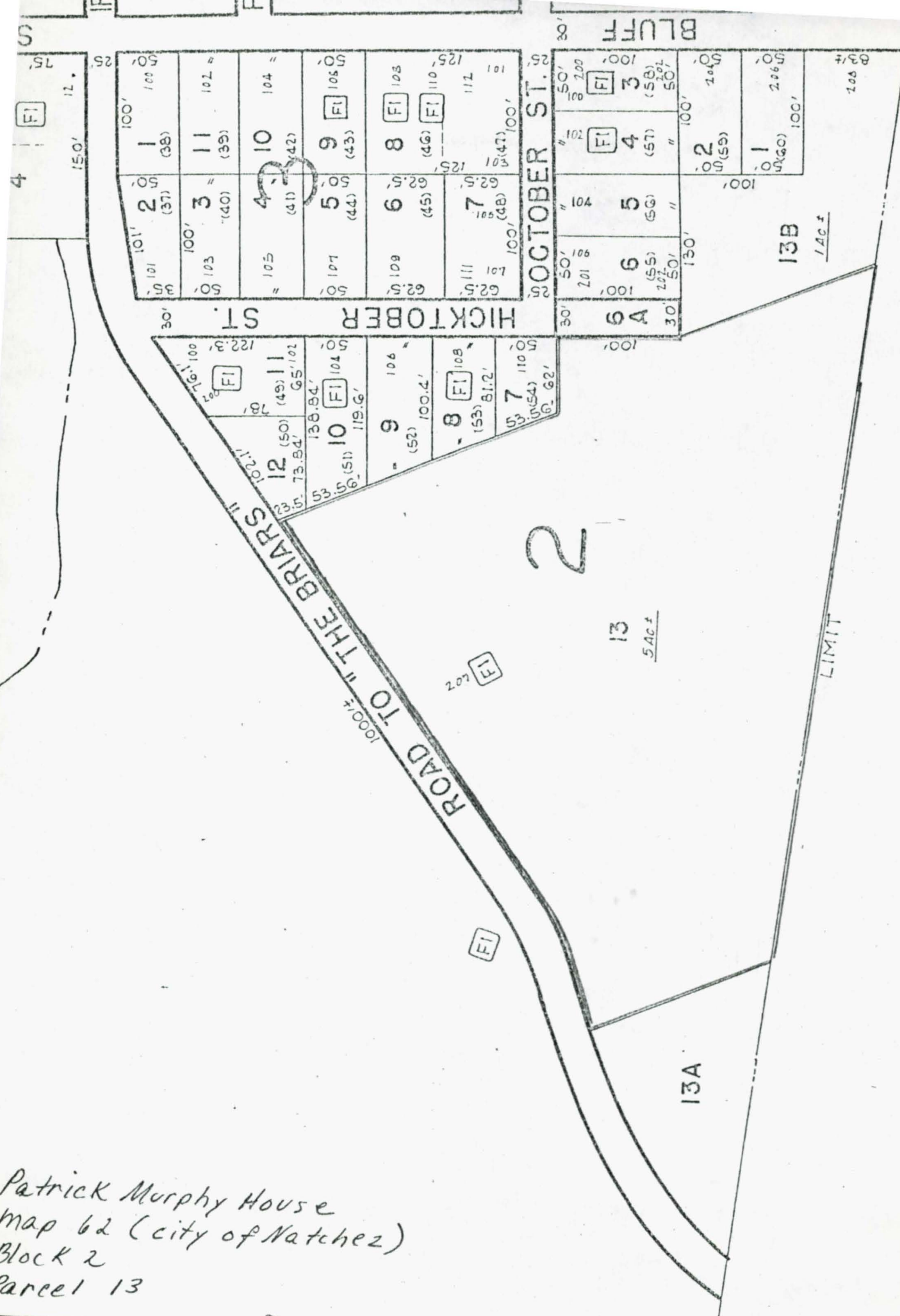
The Daily Democrat [Natchez], Nov. 18, 1885.

Miller, Mary Warren. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.  
National Register File. Adams Co. William Ailes House.

Miller, Mary Warren. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.  
National Register File. Adams Co. Dooley Place.

The Natchez Democrat, June 11, 1929.

Patrick Murphy House  
 Map 62 (city of Natchez)  
 Block 2  
 Parcel 13



TAX MAP  
 NATCHEZ  
 ADAMS COURT



PATRICK MURPHY HOUSE  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking southwesterly, the facade of  
the house, showing the house in its  
8-acre setting.

Photo 1 of 4





PATRICK MURPHY HOUSE  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking westerly, the facade of the house.

Photo 2 of 4



PATRICK MURPHY HOUSE  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking northerly, the southerly elevation  
of the house.

Photo 3 of 4



PATRICK MURPHY HOUSE  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking northerly, the southerly elevation  
of the house.

Photo 3 of 4