

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

10-16
For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic William Ailes House

and/or common Bellevue

2. Location

street & number 657 South Canal Street _____ not for publication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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mrs. Carla Johnson, Mrs. Barbara Kaiser, and Mrs. Katherine Killelea

street & number 657 South Canal Street

city, town Natchez _____ vicinity of _____ state Mississippi 39120

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse--Chancery Clerk

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Natchez _____ state Mississippi

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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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

Situated on the eastern side of Canal Street facing the Mississippi River, Bellevue is a one-and-a-half story, square brick Greek Revival residence. The gabled roof was originally pierced by two interior brick chimneys, and two unusual gabled dormers, unique for Natchez, with pilasters and beveled lighted corners are located in the front slope of the roof. The westerly facade, which is stuccoed and scored, is fronted by a gallery cut under the front slope of the roof. The windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds, not original. The gallery columns, which support a full molded entablature, are turned and set upon wooden pedestals. Indications from ghosts on the front wall are that the gallery columns were originally box columns, probably linked by rectangular-sectioned balusters with a molded handrail. The present pedestals with turned columns are linked by a simple arrangement of boards in the shape of X's.

The entrance doorway occupies the center bay of the five-bay facade. The doorway consists of a partial entablature with modillioned cornice that is supported by simply molded pilasters and attached box columns. Sidelights are set over molded panels, but the builder omitted the usual transom. The tall, single-leaf door is four-paneled and molded. The floor plan of the interior is a double-pile plan with a central passage that widens to room size in the rear and is flanked by two smaller rooms, or "cabinets." The interior millwork throughout the interior is plain and unmolded with the exception of the surviving original wooden mantel piece that is pilastered and molded and located in the northerly rear room. The window and door surrounds have a vernacular shouldered effect, and the bases in the southerly front room have two fasciae although they are neither molded nor beaded.

The configuration of the rear rooms and the stairway to the second floor, which was originally enclosed, were altered to accommodate modern conveniences and again to convert the house to commercial use. The rear gallery has been enclosed and extended for additional room. Upstairs are two bedrooms with the same simple trim of the downstairs and original board-and-batten doors.

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1853-4 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Bowen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Ailes House, or Bellevue, is a Greek Revival dwelling typical of the type residence constructed by the working middle class of antebellum Natchez. Although altered by conversion to commercial use, the house is extremely important as the only building documented as having been built by Natchez master carpenter Thomas Bowen. Also unique for Natchez architecture are the dormers which feature lighted beveled corners.

In 1852, William Ailes purchased an eleven-acre tract of land from the heirs of John Girault (Adams Co. Deed Book II:113). This tract was part of the larger Belle-Vue [sic] estate that was earlier surveyed into building lots by Levin Wailes (Deed Book BB:428) and advertised for sale in 1845 (Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, Mar. 4, 1845, p. 1). John Girault's Bellevue mansion, depicted in the Wailes survey, no longer survives, and the house constructed for Ailes now bears the name of the Girault estate. William Ailes died intestate in 1856, not long after his residence was completed, and a thorough accounting of the construction of the house by Thomas Bowen was filed among Ailes's probate papers with a balance owing of \$204.66. The first charges were entered in November 1853 for lumber, and the house was completed in the fall of 1854 (Probate Box 161). Thomas Bowen is listed in the 1860 Adams Co. population schedules as a master carpenter who was born in Maryland. The probate papers also contain the information that Ailes was a drayman whose business was located on Silver Street in Natchez Under-the-Hill.

Documenting Bowen as the builder of Bellevue has almost certainly identified him as the builder of an important Natchez residence known as Sunnyside, or the Guidici House. The masons who worked on the Ailes residence were Reynolds and Brown (Probate Box 161), who were the masons for Stanton Hall (Mississippi Free Trader, Apr. 5, 1858, p. 1) and Institute Hall (Minutes, Board of Selectmen, Natchez Mississippi, May 5, 1852).

The house was sold in 1859 (Deed Book MM:330) to Charles Boyle, a prominent levy contractor (Population Schedules, Adams Co., Miss., 1860), and again in 1876 (Deed Book UU:793) to John Quegles, prominent merchant and son of the Spaniard Joseph Quegles, one of the early citizens of Natchez. In the 1960's the house was purchased from the Lum family for use as a gift shop operating under the firm name of Brown-Barnett. The Lum family had previously altered the rear of the house, and Brown Barnett made additional rear alterations for commercial purposes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Natchez

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	5	0	8	0	8	3	4	9	1	7	1	7
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

See attached xerox of city tax map with nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on map 63, block 1, parcel 1A.

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

date August 16, 1979

street & number 506 High Street

telephone (601) 442-9786

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

Elmer R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 16, 1979

For HCRS 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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS 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 BB, II, MM, and UU.

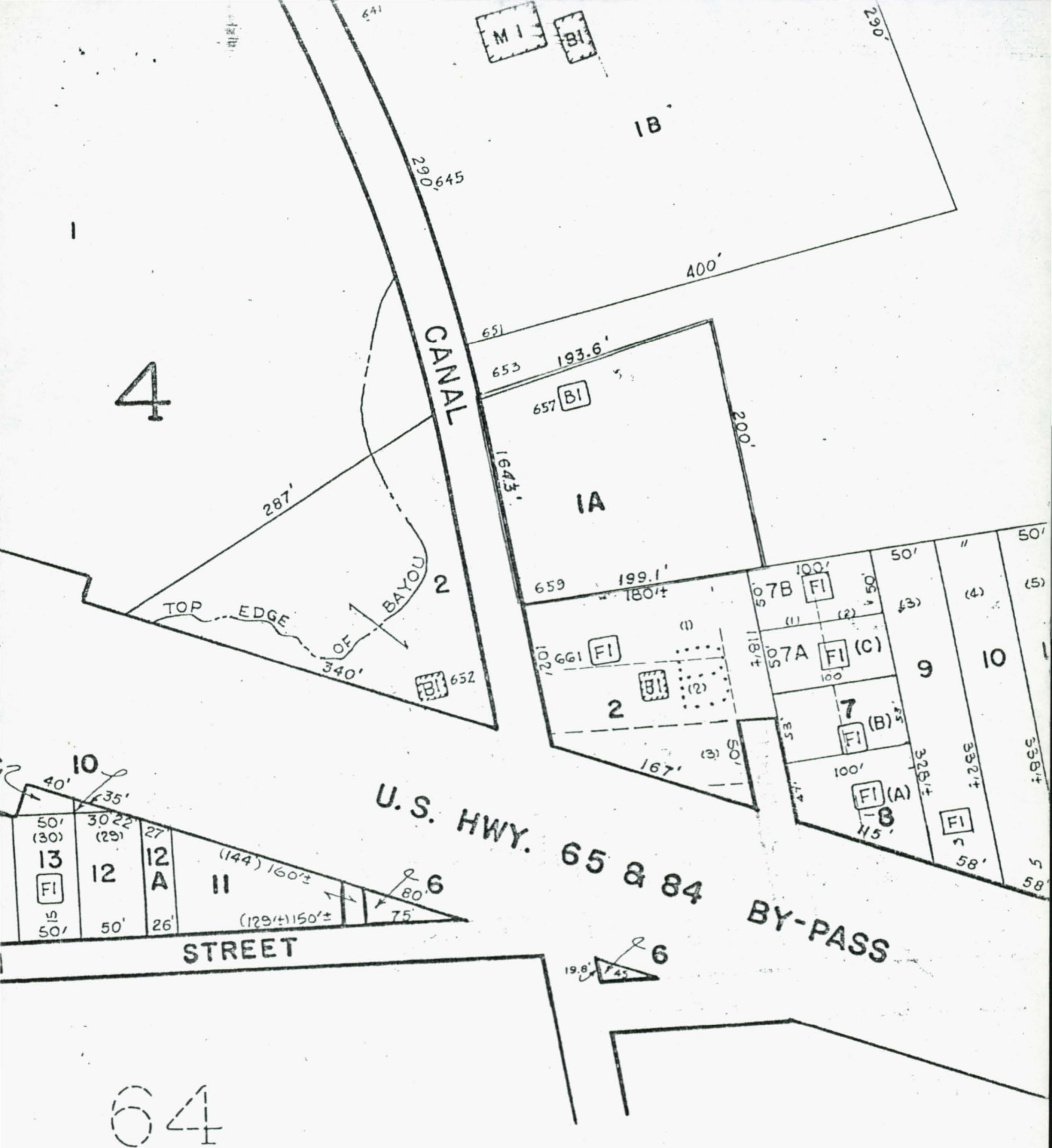
Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Probate Box 161.

Mississippi Free Trader, Apr. 5, 1858.

Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, Mar. 4, 1845.

Natchez, Miss. Minutes, Board of Selectmen, May 5, 1852.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Adams Co.,
Miss., 1860.



Map 63
 Block 1
 Parcel 1A



WILLIAM AILES HOUSE
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi
Looking southeast, the westerly
facade and northerly elevation.
Photo 1 of 1