

PH0366820

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 13 1976  
DATE ENTERED AUG 16 1977

## 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  
Rosalie  
AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
100 Orleans Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Natchez  
STATE  
Mississippi  
VICINITY OF  
Fourth  
COUNTY  
Adams  
CODE  
28  
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 checked="" 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 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 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  
Mississippi Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
STREET & NUMBER  
100 Orleans Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Natchez  
STATE  
Mississippi

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the Chancery Clerk, Adams County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Natchez  
STATE  
Mississippi

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Historic American Survey (9 sheets; 3 photos)  
DATE  
1934  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington, D.C.  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Rosalie is a large (59' x 65'), brick, two-and-one-half-story residence located on the bluff at 100 Orleans Street in Natchez, Mississippi. The walls, laid in Flemish bond on the facade, or north elevation, and in common bond on the remaining sides, stand above a full basement containing storage rooms. Covering the structure is a tall, hipped roof, with an observation deck surrounded by a wooden balustrade. The facade is divided into five bays, the center three of which are stuccoed behind a monumental portico of Doric columns supporting a delicately proportioned entablature which is continued around all elevations. Elegantly flared steps ascent to the main level and entrance, designed with paneled, double-leaf doors, sidelights, and an elliptical fanlight transom. The simple door treatment is repeated in the balcony level and twice again on the rear elevation. Symmetrically spaced windows are double hung, with twelve-over-twelve glazing, and many are fitted with original blinds. Extending the full width of the stuccoed rear elevation is a five-bay portico, without a pediment, whose columns stand on pedestals set directly on a brick patio. A wooden stair sheltered by the portico gives access to the rear balcony. Located near the southwest corner of the mansion is a two-story brick outbuilding containing a kitchen and several bedrooms.

The interior arrangement of Rosalie is based on the double-pile plan, with a central passage separating double parlors on the east from the library, stairhall, and dining room opposite. Excellent Federal design is illustrated by the graceful arch which springs from the reeded pilasters framing the stairhall; by eight-panel doors, each surrounded by a wide architrave with corner blocks; and by several wooden mantels, each with paneled pilasters supporting a five-part frieze. Of special interest is the open well stair and its scrolled step-ends, columnlike newel, and tapered balusters.

In 1858, Rosalie was "modernized" in the fashionable Rococo style by the installation of arched marble mantels with carved cartouches in the double parlors, and simple pilastered marble mantels in the library and dining room. At the same time, a splendid set of furniture in the Belter style was placed in the parlors and complemented by a wall-to-wall Aubusson, a pair of large over-mantel looking glasses, and gilt window cornices.

# 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 checked="" 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 1820-23; 1863

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. S. Griffin

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rosalie is one of the earliest fully developed and most prominent "suburban villas" in Natchez and is considered a highly significant example of Neo-Classical domestic architecture. In addition, the mansion is locally significant as the headquarters of the Federal army during its occupation of Natchez (1863-1865).

Rosalie was built ca. 1820-1823 by Peter Little (1781-1856), a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who had come to the Mississippi Territory in 1798, the year of its creation. He established below the bluffs at Natchez one of the first steam-powered sawmills in the Southwest. Having acquired considerable wealth through the milling of lumber, he purchased a tract of twenty-one acres as a site for his house. According to family tradition, Little's brother-in-law, James Shryach Griffin, a Baltimore architect who had come to Natchez between 1813 and 1816, designed the house and supervised its construction. Rosalie was the third structure in Natchez to employ a temple front portico with archaeologically "correct" Roman orders. First introduced at Auburn in 1812, the pedimented portico soon became a characteristic feature in the domestic architecture of Natchez during the Neo-Classical and Greek Revival periods. Although Rosalie is substantially a Federal design, its use of the giant Roman orders is contemporary with, and in the spirit of, Jefferson's pavilions at the University of Virginia.

Peter Little chose to give his estate the name of the French fort, Rosalie, the ruins of which stood at some distance behind the house. Joseph Holt Ingraham described the house and its setting around 1834:

...To the south, a noble colonnaded structure, whose heavy appearance is gracefully relieved by shrubbery, parterres, and a light latticed summer-house, crowning a gentle eminence in the rear, and half suspended over the precipice, strikes [the] eye with a fine effect. From this admirable foreground, gently sloping hills, with here and there a white dwelling, half concealed in foliage, spread away into the country. Between this edifice and the forest back ground rise the romantic ruins of Fort Rosalie, now enamelled with a rich coating of verdure (Ingraham, p. 23).

Another account, written in 1863, also referred to the house's proximity to the old fort. "Several hundred feet to the south of the mansion, on what was then part of its lawn, were the remains of the old fort, right on the crest of the bluff" (Gresham, p. 241).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book L, p. 36718. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Gresham, Matilda. Life of Walter Quintin Gresham 1823-1895. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 1919, p. 241.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

2.2 acres MJL - phone call 4877

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 22

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 5 | | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Norman Chronister, Research Assistant - William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

Mississippi Department of Archives and History June 24, 1976

P. O. Box 571 601-354-6218

Jackson 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 Edward R. Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE July 8, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>8/16/77</u>
ATTEST: <u>Charles Williams</u>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>8-12-77</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Rosalie

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Peter Little occupied Rosalie until his death in 1856, at which time the house and its furnishings were sold. A. L. Wilson, a Natchez planter, purchased the house, and it was during the occupancy of his family that the present furnishings were acquired. In 1863, the house was used as headquarters for the Fourth Division of the Seventeenth Army Corps under the command of General W. T. Gresham. "The whole first floor of Rosalie, except the dining-room, was used for offices by high Union officials, the front room at the right being for two years used as the main Union office" (Guyton, p. 41). Following the fall of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863, the house was occupied for several days by General Ulysses S. Grant.

In 1938 the Mississippi Division of the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased Rosalie and its furnishings from A. L. Wilson's daughter. It has since been maintained as their state shrine.

Rosalie

9

2

Guyton, Pearl Vivian. *The Story of Rosalie*. Jackson, Mississippi: Hederman Brothers, 1941, p. 41.

(Ingraham, Joseph Holt). *The South-west. By a Yankee*. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1835, 2:23.

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Adams County. Rosalie.

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Subject File. Rosalie.



① Rosalie  
Natchez, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi  
William C. Allen  
Miss. Dept. of Archives &  
History  
1976  
North Elevation

JUL 13 1976

AUG 16 1977





② Rosalie  
Natchez, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi  
William C. Allen  
Miss. Dept. of Archives &  
History  
1976  
View from the NE

JUL 13 1976  
AUG 16 1977



3. Rosalie

Natchez, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi

William C. Allen

Miss. Dept. of Archives &  
History

1976

JUL 13 1976

South Elevation

AUG 16 1977



4.

Rosalie

Natchez, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi

William C. Allen

Miss. Dept. of Archives &  
History

1976

Double Porters

JUL 13 1976

AUG 16 1977

“Rosalie”

National Historic Landmark (NHL) Nomination

Listed 01/19/1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name ROSALIE  
other names/site number (same)

### 2. Location

street & number 100 Orleans Street n/a  not for publication  
city, town Natchez n/a  vicinity  
state Mississippi code MS county Adams code 01 zip code 39120

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt Tile  
other Stucco and heart cypress

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Rosalie is a detached, large (56' x 65') red brick, two and one-half story dwelling, facing North on the loess bluff of the Mississippi River at 100 Orleans Street in Natchez, Mississippi. The walls, laid in Flemish bond on the facade, and in common bond on the remaining sides, stand above a full basement whose floor is brick laid in a herringbone pattern. Covering the structure is a tall, hipped, asphalt tile roof with an observation deck surrounded by a cypress balustrade. The deck is reached from the attic by a stationery ladder and a domed skylight. The facade is divided into five bays, the center three of which are stuccoed behind a raised portico of four tapered, Tuscan columns of the giant order, supporting a delicately proportioned entablature which is continued around all elevations. The pediment is centered with a sunburst design, oval window which helps light the attic. The pediment covers a balustered portico. The balustered portico is reached by elegantly flared brick steps, which have hand-wrought iron rails. Directly beneath the portico is the entrance to the basement, which is laid with a herringbone design brick floor with a rain-water drainage system. The north, or main, entrance has eight paneled, double leaf doors, sidelights and an elliptical fanlight transom. This simple door treatment is repeated on the balcony level, also on the first floor and on the gallery of the rear elevation. The flooring of the front porch and front balcony is painted cypress; on the rear gallery it is painted canvas over cypress. There are four mahogany-framed windows in each of the eight rooms. The windows and each of the four recessed chimneys are symmetrically placed. The windows are double hung, with twelve-over-twelve glazing, and most are fitted with the original exterior, heart cypress blinds or shutters. The interior woodwork surrounding the windows is symmetrically molded trim with bullseye corner blocks. Extending the full width of the rear, or south, elevation is a five bay portico, without a pediment, whose six columns stand on pedestals set directly on a herringbone design brick terrace. A wooden stair, sheltered by the portico gives access to the rear balustered gallery. Of interest is the south steps from the terrace to the first floor. A whole cypress log was used for each of four steps. Three are 9'3" long, 13" wide and 6" thick. The fourth or bottom step is 15' long. These are unpainted and are original. The structural system is heart cypress, post and beam, with solid brick walls and foundation. All interior and exterior walls are 14" thick.



## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
Military

1823  
1862-1864

1823  
1862-1864

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Architect/James Shryach Griffin

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The architecture of Rosalie influenced the design and construction of houses throughout the lower Mississippi Valley, and to some degree throughout the southern part of the United States. Rosalie served as Federal headquarters during the Civil War.

The design of Rosalie was unique at the time of construction in 1823. The house is almost cubical, it has a raised portico with three bays; and a two story colonnade in the rear. The raised portico with three bays, a pediment and two story columns, also a series of two story columns on the rear, without a pediment had not been built in the lower Mississippi Valley prior to Rosalie. This was first noted in a conversation with Mary Wallace Crocker in 1974. It was not until 1986 that this was documented in print by Miller and Miller in their book The Great Houses of Natchez:

" A modified version of the Auburn portico was built in 1823 at Rosalie, where it is combined with other features to produce the first complete form of the grand mansions found in Natchez and, to a lesser extent, throughout the south. As introduced at Rosalie, this form is based on a nearly cubical brick block, crowned by a hip roof with railed balustrade. Of the five openings on the front, the three center ones are sheltered by a portico supported by columns two stories high. The columns are repeated on the rear gallery to form a colonnade extending the full width of the building.

The grand mansion form established in Rosalie was repeatedly utilized for Natchez houses up to the time of the Civil War. It was duplicated at Melrose, Homewood (burned), Choctaw, and the Harper House (demolished). It appears without the roof balustrade at Magnolia Hall and with a double-tiered gallery at Stanton Hall. The addition of a rear colonnade converted earlier houses like Auburn and Arlington to an approximation of the form." pages xi and xii

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

BOOKS

- Crocker, Mary Wallace, Historic Architecture in Mississippi, University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973, pp 23-25
- Gresham, Matilda, Life of Walter Quinton Gresham 1823-1895, Chicago, Rand McNally and Company, 1919, p. 241.
- Ingraham, Joseph Holt, The Southwest By a Yankee, 2 Volumes, New York, Harper and Brothers, Volume 2 p. 23.
- McLemore, Richard Aubrey, editor, A History of Mississippi, 2 volumes, University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973, Volume I, pp 124, 134, 158, 174, 452.
- Miller, Mary Warren, and Miller, Ronald W., The Great Houses of Natchez, University Press of Mississippi, 1986 pp xi, xii, 97.
- Moore, John Hebron, Andrew Brown and Cypress Lumbering in the Old Southeast, Louisiana State University Press, pp 20-22.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MS-17-1
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Rosalie files and bookcases

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 6.5 acres

UTM References

A 15 651060 3492460  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

City Map 60, Block 1, Parcel 30, or as follows: Beginning at an iron pipe on the margin of Bluff at SW corner of the public promenade known as Parker's Bluff. Thence with a straight line of the Promenade grounds S 53° E 183' to iron pipe at western edge of Broadway. Then S 32°W at 73 center of brick wall of Rosalie enclosure at 346 1/2' an iron pipe to mark at the corner of a 44 foot street at 390 1/2' western iron pipe

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes 6.5 acres of the original 21.84 acres historically associated with the property. This acreage represents the amount of the original property presently owned by the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ann McCormack O'Hare (Mrs. William E.) Honorary State Regent

organization Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution date July 29, 1988

street & number 1306 College Street telephone 601 843-5039

city or town Cleveland state Mississippi zip code 38732

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The interior arrangement of Rosalie is based on the double pile plan, with a wide central passage, or hall, separating double parlors on the east from the library, stairhall and dining room opposite. All of the floors are constructed of heart cypress. Each board is 4.5 inches wide, with a dark varnished finish. The walls are plastered and are painted with the original colors. The hardware is brass and is original. Separating the double parlors are sliding doors, whose mechanism is original and excellent. The wide cornice, or crown, in the double parlor is carved with a delicate pattern. Excellent Federal design is illustrated by the graceful arch which springs from the reeded pilasters framing the stairhall; by eight panel doors throughout the house, each with wide symmetrically molded lintels and sidepieces, with bullseye corner blocks; and by four wooden mantels each with paneled pilasters supporting a five part frieze. Of special interest is the mahogany, open well stair, with several loops from the first floor to the attic; its scrolled step-ends; columnlike newel and tapered balusters. Under the stairs on the first floor is a butler's pantry which opens to the dining room. The stairway helped to cool the house when the dormer window was open, by creating a chimney effect.

The attic is finished with cypress flooring and plastered walls and ceiling. Light comes from the sunburst oval window on the pediment, the skylight in the center and the dormer at the rear (south). An 18 step permanent ladder leads to the dome-shaped glass skylight which fastens with a hook. There are four openings leading to the space under the eaves or roof overhang. There is an opening on each side of the double doors which open into the attic from the stairs. There are two openings on the east wall, one southeast and one northeast.

The second floor is composed of four bedrooms and a central hall. Double doors open from the hall onto the facade balcony, and another pair of hall doors open onto the rear gallery.

The house is surrounded by 6.5 acres of land which is fenced and cross-fenced. Of interest is the tall cypress, picket fence, most of it original, built without nails, which is on the north side of the 1.87 acre house lot. The picket fence and brick walls to the east, south and west surround the house and a garden designed in 1986 by a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

landscape architect. The garden, with an underground watering system, enhances Rosalie by the use of indigenous trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. Old trees and shrubs were kept and species identified prior to 1860 are now growing. Outside the east brick wall, a sidewalk parallels Canal Street from Orleans Street to Compress Street. There is a small original courtyard on the southwest side of the dependency. To the west of the brick wall is a 3.9 acre fenced grass lawn with a non-contributing gazebo, which is a replica of an 1850 structure. To the south of the rear brick wall lies Compress Street, which is not used as a city street, but does serve as a gravel driveway and parking area. There is a triangular .58 acre grass and gravel parking area south of Compress Street. A small triangle, .15 acre, is lost in a maze of streets, railroad rails and crossties in front of the house at the southeast corner of Broadway Street and north of Orleans Street. This triangle is not attached to the balance of the property.

The first structural change was unintentional. At 2 p.m., May 7, 1840, a tornado struck Natchez taking 300 lives, injuring 600 and destroying much property. Rosalie lost a portion of its wooden cupola. The damaged cupola was removed, leaving an observation deck.

In 1858, Andrew Wilson bought Rosalie from the Little estate. That year arched marble mantels with carved cartouches were installed in the double parlors and simple, pilastered marble mantels were put in the library and dining rooms. Decorative plaster medallions for the light fixtures were added downstairs. At this time a 20 piece rosewood parlor set by John Henry Belter was purchased from A.T. Stewart and Company in New York. Wall to wall aubusson carpet and a pair of French, over-mantel looking glasses with gold leaf frames were installed in the double parlors. Gilt cornices were installed over the windows in these two rooms.

Early in the Twentieth Century, the house was wired for electricity and plumbed for running water. A sink was installed in the butler's pantry under the stairs, and directly beneath it in a basement storage room a sink was installed. An area 6'2" x 7'2" was enclosed for a bathroom. This area is in the southwest corner of the northeast bedroom, and the northwest corner of the southeast bedroom. One-half the footage for the bath came from each of these bedrooms. At this same time, a water closet and a lavatory were placed in a small

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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enclosure adjacent to the latticed arcade between the house and the dependency. In 1970 two water closets and two lavatories were enclosed in the rear portion of the basement hall. This same year a heating system was installed with all exposed parts placed in the rear section of the basement. In 1984 a closet was built in the southeast corner bedroom by extending the bathroom wall 6'4". The closet encloses an area 6'2" x 6'4" to the south of the bathroom and along the northwest wall of the southeast bedroom. When the hall door is opened into this bedroom the closet and bath cannot be seen.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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"...Rosalie ... apparently established an architectural form associated not only with the grand houses of Natchez, but with plantation houses throughout the South". page 97

The Rosalie tract was originally a part of Old French Fort Rosalie established by Bienville in 1716 and named for the Countess de Pontchartrain. After the French and Indian War, the French ceded the Fort to the British in 1763. When General Bernardo de Galvez captured Baton Rouge on September 20, 1779, Natchez and the Fort (called Fort Panmure by the British) came under Spanish control. According to the Pinckney Treaty (or Treaty of San Lorenz), Spain ceded much territory, including the Fort and Natchez to the United States of America. The Spanish did not leave Natchez until 1798. In 1798 a patent for 21.84 acres, which included the Fort, was granted by the United States of America to Henry Willis. The tract was bought and sold several times until on January 8, 1821, a Deed of Conveyance from Gamaliet and Frances F. Pease to Peter Little was recorded for the property. Peter Little then sold the south half of the tract, with the Fort ruins, retaining the north portion which joined the Spanish Promenade with an upstream view of the river. According to Edith Wyatt Moore, Rosalie is situated near the portcullis of the Fort. Joseph Holt Ingraham in The Southwest, By a Yankee describes Rosalie, the house, and states:

"Between this edifice and the forest background rise the romantic ruins of Fort Rosalie."

In a biography of her husband, General Walter Quinton Gresham, his wife, Matilda, states that the Fort remains were "several hundred feet to the south of mansion".

It was on this property that Peter Little had his Rosalie built, occupying it in 1823. The architect, J.S. Griffin of Baltimore, was Peter Little's brother-in-law. Mr. Griffin and his family moved to Natchez and the architect supervised the construction. Of interest is the fact that Peter Little invented a steam engine to operate a circular saw. He attached these to his saw mill which manufactured the lumber for the house. There is evidence that this was the first steam powered saw mill in the southwest.

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After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Little, Andrew Wilson bought Rosalie in 1858. Mrs. Wilson and her ward, Fannie McMurtry, were occupying the house when it was selected as Union or Federal Headquarters in September, 1862. The house remained Headquarters for the Fourth Division of the Seventeenth Army Corps of the United States of America for two years. Following the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and two children occupied the house for several days. When General W.Q. Gresham and his wife arrived in September, 1863, they occupied one bedroom upstairs and used the first floor for army offices. Prior to the arrival of General Gresham, and after he was transferred, there were several other Commanding Officers, including a General whose surname was Tuttle.

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MANUSCRIPTS

Natchez, Mississippi, Rosalie Files, Martha Ker Lum file.

Natchez, Mississippi, Rosalie Files, Catherine and Catherine Ruth Prince file.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Moore, Edith Wyatt, The Natchez Times, December 7, 1952.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Adams County, Mississippi, High Court of Errors and Appeals, Drawer 116, Book L, page 36718, Deed records in Adams County Courthouse

Chancery Clerk's Office, Adams County, Mississippi, Map Book of Natchez, Sheet Number 60

IN HOUSE FILES

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register File. Adams County. Rosalie.

INTERVIEWS

Crocker, Mary Wallace, author of Historic Architecture in Mississippi. Interviewed by Ann McCormack O'Hare at Cleveland, Mississippi, January 11, 1974.



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National Park Service

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for same at 612 an iron pipe for SE corner, thence N 53 3/4 W, 331 feet to an iron pipe on the margin of the bluff and thence with the margin of the bluff to the beginning. Also, a perpetual right of way through Compress Street 44 feet wide 310 feet to Canal Street and remaining parallel with the back fence of the yard as enclosed. S 58 E 310 feet to Canal Street and starting from the iron pipe previously mentioned, thence north 260 feet along the brick fence of the yard on the western edge of Broadway, thence West 277 feet along Orleans Street by the fence of the yard as now enclosed to an iron pipe.

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ROSALIE, NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Section number PHOTO Page 1

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ROSALIE, NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Photographs, Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Rosalie
- (2) Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi
- (3) Mark Coffy
- (4) July, 1988
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1 (6) Aerial view of front (north) elevation, view to southwest.

Photo 2 (6) Front (north) facade, view to south.

Photo 3 (6) East elevation and view to southwest.

Photo 4 (6) Rear (south) elevation, view to northwest.

Photo 5 (6) Rear gallery and a portion of the colonnade, view to west.

Photo 6 (6) Central hallway on first floor, view to north.

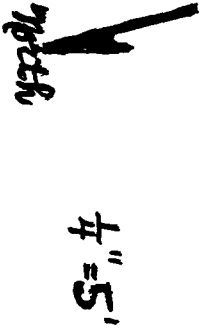
Photo 7 (6) Stair alcove, view to west.

Photo 8 (6) Rear (south) parlor as seen from the center of the front  
parlor, view to south.

Photo 9 (6) Closeup view of front parlor woodwork as seen over the double  
doors between the parlors. View to south.

Photo 10 (6) Northeast bedroom, view to east.

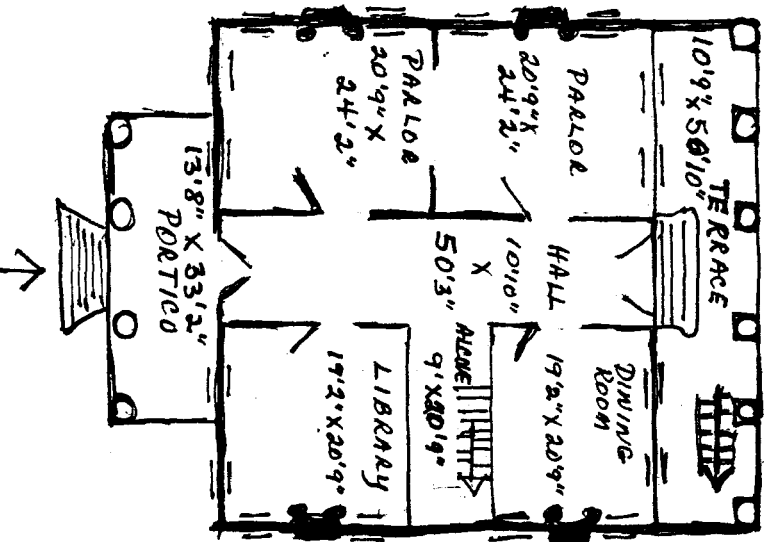
# ROSALIE MATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI



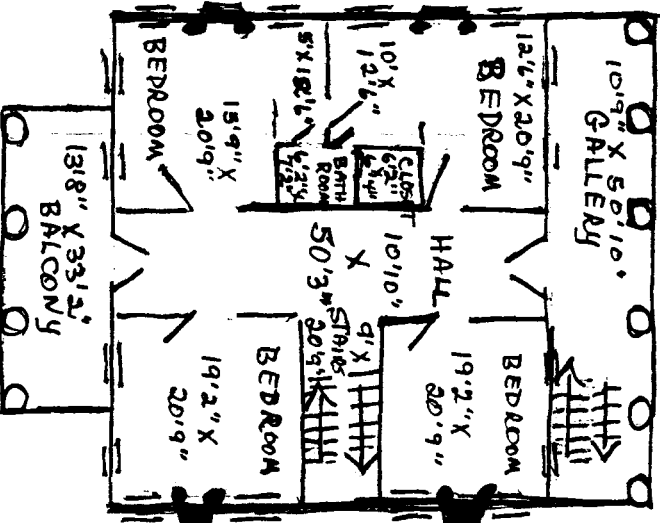
4" = 5'

FLOOR PLAN of the home owned by the MISSISSIPPI STATE SOCIETY DAR, located at 100 ORLEANS STREET in MATCHEZ. CURRENT USAGE is indicated. ALL walls are 14" thick.

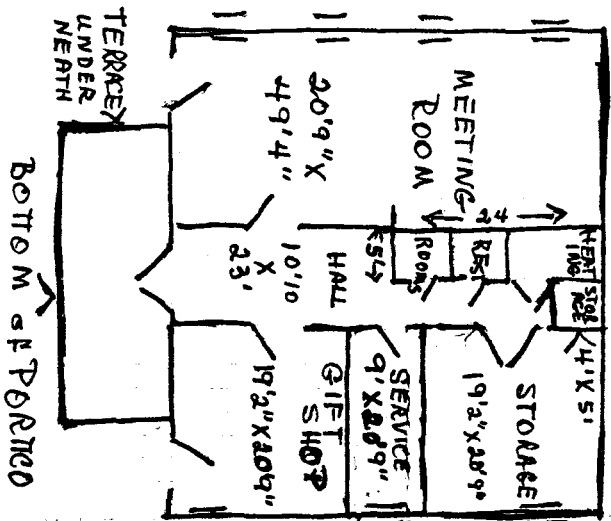
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



BASEMENT



# ROSALIE

MAP BOOK

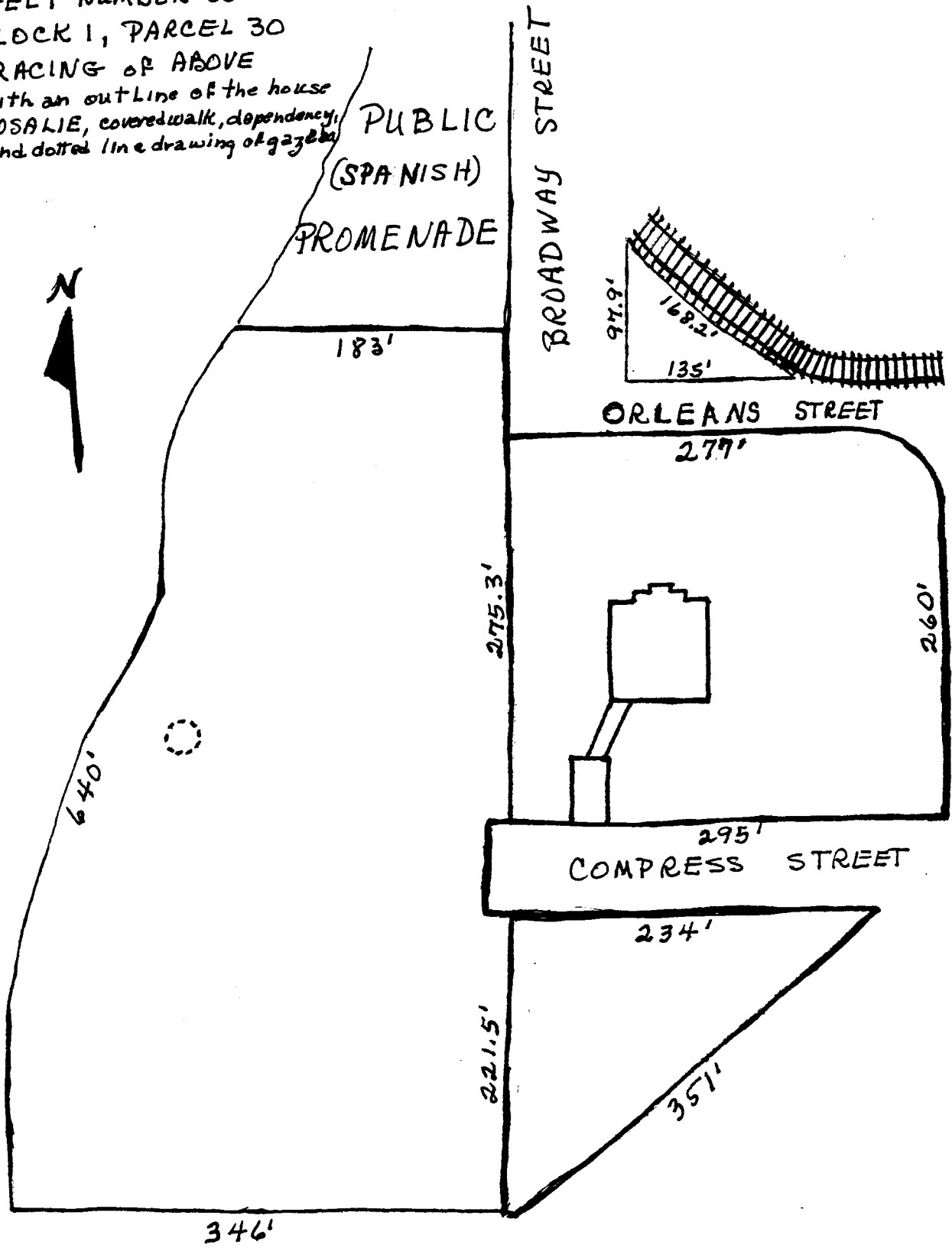
NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

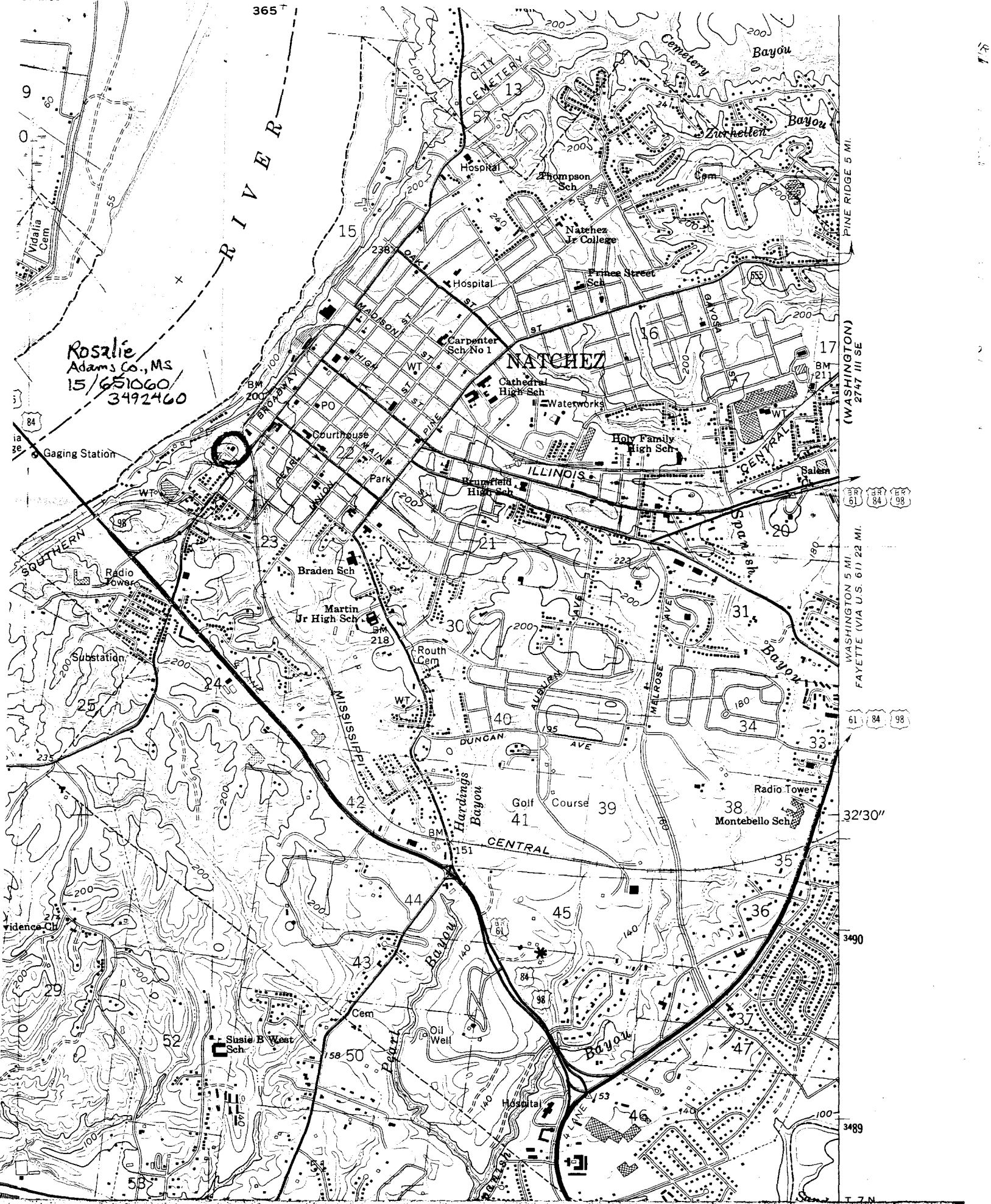
SHEET NUMBER 60

BLOCK 1, PARCEL 30

TRACING OF ABOVE

with an outline of the house  
ROSALIE, covered walk, dependency,  
and dotted line drawing of gazebo





Rosalie  
Adams Co., MS  
15/651060/  
3492460

PINE RIDGE 5 MI.  
(WASHINGTON)  
2747 III SE

WASHINGTON 5 MI.  
FAYETTE (VIA U.S. 61) 22 MI.

32°30'

3490

3489

T 7 N

9  
65  
36  
84

61 84 98

61 84 98

29  
52  
53

3490

3489

T 7 N



Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 1 of 10





Rosalie, Natchez Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 2 of 10



Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 3 of 10



Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 4 of 10



Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 5 of 10





Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 6 of 10



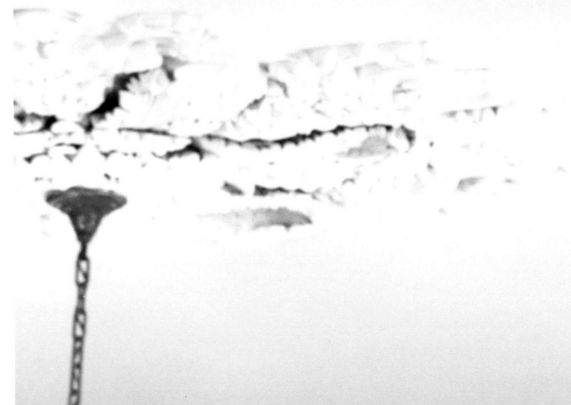
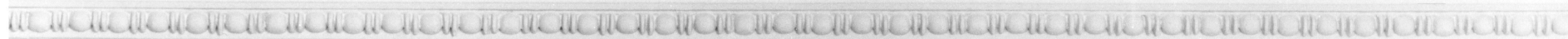
Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 7 of 10



Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 8 of 10



Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 9 of 10





Rosalie, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Photo 10 of 10