

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 22 1979
DATE ENTERED 7

**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
Tillman House
AND/OR COMMON
Tillman House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
506 High Street

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

STATE
Mississippi

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

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	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
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Webster Miller ✓

STREET & NUMBER
506 High Street

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of the Chancery Clerk
Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN
Natchez

STATE
Mississippi 39120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE
April 26, 1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN
Jackson

STATE
Mississippi 39120

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing north onto High Street one block from the Natchez business district, the Tillman House is a two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling with attached one- and two-story frame additions on the rear and a masonry wall on the western elevation. Construction details reveal that the house originally stopped some three feet short of the masonry wall and was later extended to form a row of three connected dwellings, the other two having been destroyed by fire in 1908. The main part of the house rests upon a brick foundation wall and is topped with a gable roof of standing-seam metal. Inside end chimneys are located in the masonry wall of the western elevation. The house is fronted by a double-tiered gallery crowned with a massive entablature consisting of dentiled cornice and frieze with molded panels. Both levels of the gallery are supported by wooden box columns with molded capitals and bases, and the columns are connected on the second level by a Gothic-arched wooden railing with molded handrail. Early photographs reveal that the first-floor columns were formerly joined by a similar railing (as revealed by photographs of the Tillman House and adjacent dwellings, 1880s and 1890s, in the possession of Ronald W. Miller, 506 High Street, Natchez, Miss.). The facade is divided into three bays, with the windows containing six-over-six double-hung sash set over molded jib panels. The frontispiece consists of a single-leaf door framed by attached box columns, side lights, and transom, all recessed behind pilasters supporting a full entablature with dentiled cornice. The side lights are set over molded panels and were once filled with hollow-sided wooden diamonds and colored glass, a treatment that survives on the rear-door transom. The original front door was adorned with molded panels matching the panels beneath the side lights.

The first-floor layout of the main block is a side-hall plan with double parlors on the west. The parlors are adorned with white marble mantelpieces, molded bases with two fasciae and door and window trim fluted with corner blocks. Sliding doors separating the parlors are framed by a full entablature supported by fluted pilasters with molded capitals and bases. The molded handrail and turned balusters of the stairway, which has a massive turned newel, are continuous to the third floor. The stair runs front to back along the easterly wall of the stair hall from first to second to third floor, terminating in a series of winders onto a third-floor stair hall. An interesting feature of the stair hall is the stenciled decoration at cornice level. The second floor consists of two bedrooms behind a smaller room located at the front of the hall. The rooms have wooden mantels with fluted pilasters, simple beaded bases, and fluted door and window trim with corner blocks. The third floor consists of one large plastered room with beaded base. A brick cellar is located beneath the dining room and the rear part of the stair hall.

Attached to the southeastern corner is a two-story frame addition with hip roof, added to the house in the 1880s (according to Cassius L. Tillman, Jr., former owner of the house, interviewed by the author, Fall, 1974). The addition originally consisted of one large room supported by tall brick piers, constructed to connect the second floor of the main house and a detached brick wing, which was demolished in the 1930s. The open area beneath the room was enclosed for use as a family room in the 1940s. Attached to the southwestern corner of the main house is a one-story addition with shed roof that at present serves as the kitchen. Both additions were accomplished without removal of the rear galleries, both of which were enclosed and incorporated by the later structures.

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 1834-37, ca. 1860 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Neibert and Gemmell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of four antebellum Natchez townhouses with a double-front gallery side-hall plan, the Tillman House, at 506 High Street, is the surviving third of a row of connected dwellings, a form of construction that has all but disappeared from Natchez. The house has further significance as having been the residence of the Tillman family, an early Jewish family that attained a prominent position in nineteenth-century Natchez.

The Tillman House was constructed some time between 1834 and 1837 by the Natchez contracting firm owned and operated by Joseph Neibert and Peter Gemmell. (Neibert and Gemmell had acquired the property in 1834 [Adams County, Miss., Deed Book W:450], and by 1837, when the lot was sold to Lemuel P. Rooks, it was described as the "northwardly one half on which the improvements are built" [Deed Book Z:231].) In 1845 the property was acquired by Charles H. Dubs (Deed Book EE:542), a dental surgeon born in Philadelphia who arrived in Natchez by way of New Orleans in 1840 (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, National Register of Historic Places File, Adams Co., Dr. Dubs Townhouse). In 1846, Dubs advertised both his office and residence as located on "High Street between Commerce and Union Streets" (Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, May 23, 1846, p. 1). In 1853, after constructing a new townhouse with similar floor plan one block away, on the corner of Pearl and High streets (Dr. Dubs Townhouse nomination), Dubs sold his old house to Mme Aglae Maria Brown (Deed Book II:502), who established her "Select French School in the house formerly occupied by Dr. C. H. Dubs" (The Daily Courier [Natchez], Aug. 10, 1853, p. 3). In 1862 the house was acquired by Joseph and Ricca Tillman (Deed Book NN:244), a Jewish couple who arrived in Natchez as early as 1843 (The Natchez Democrat, Sept. 11, 1875, p. 6B). The Tillmans were instrumental in organizing the local synagogue (Ibid.), and Ricca Tillman especially was recognized for her many civic contributions (Diary of Joseph Buck Stratton, 1843-1903, entry of Apr. 23, 1899, typed transcription, original located at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge). The house was inherited by their son, Cassius L. Tillman, Sr., sketched in an 1888 promotional publication as the treasurer of Adams County (Natchez, Mississippi, On Top, Not "Under the Hill" [Natchez: Daily Democrat Steam Print <ca. 1888>], p. 17). He later served the county as sheriff (Population schedules, Adams Co., Miss., 1900).

As originally built, the Tillman House was a two-and-a-half story frame dwelling. Some time prior to 1864, when the map of the defenses of Natchez was drawn, the house had been extended on the western elevation to two connected one-story dwellings (as revealed by photographs of the Tillman House and adjacent dwellings, 1880s and 1890s, in the possession of Ronald W. Miller, 506 High St., Natchez, Miss.). At the same time the house was extended, a double-tiered gallery was added to the facade and an elaborate interior remodeling was undertaken, stylistic evidence indicating that the major changes occurred

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books W , Z, EE, II, NN, 4T, 4V.

The Daily Courier [Natchez], Aug. 10, 1853.

Miller, Ronald W. Photographs of the Tillman House and adjacent dwellings, 1880s, 1890s, 506 High St., Natchez, Miss.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 6,5,1 8,5,9 3,4 9,2 7,7,9
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached photocopy of city tax map with the nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on map 8, block 12, parcel 4.

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, consultant

ORGANIZATION

Owner of the Tillman House

DATE

November 30, 1978

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 X

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. Milliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 14, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: [Signature]
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4-17-79

DATE 4/16/79

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 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

ca. 1860. In 1908 the two houses connected to the western side of the Tillman House were destroyed when the Natchez Drug Company, located on the corner of Main and Union streets, exploded, and sparks from the explosion started a fire (Thomas Reber, Proud Old Natchez, History and Romance [Natchez: Natchez Printing and Stationery Company, 1909], p. 63). The brick fire wall saved the Tillman House, which today has the distinction of being the only frame house in town with a single masonry wall. The house remained in the Tillman family for some seventy-five years (Deed Book 4T:665), until 1937, when it was sold to Capt. George Prince, who divided the house into rental units (Deed Book 4V:196). In 1974 the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Webster Miller, who have returned it to a single-family dwelling and have undertaken a sympathetic restoration.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register of Historic Places File. Adams Co., Dr. Dubs Townhouse.

Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette, May 23, 1846.

The Natchez Democrat, Sept. 11, 1975.

Natchez, Mississippi, On Top, Not "Under the Hill." Natchez: Daily Democrat Steam Print [ca. 1888].

Reber, Thomas. Proud Old Natchez, History and Romance. Natchez: Natchez Printing and Stationery Co., 1909.

Stratton, Joseph Buck. Diary, 1843-1903, typed transcription. Original at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Tillman, Jr., Cassius L., former owner of the Tillman House. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, Fall, 1974, at Natchez, Miss.

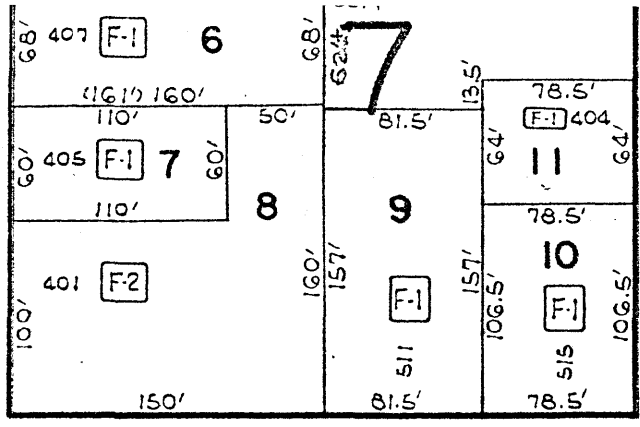
United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Adams County, Miss., 1900.

26

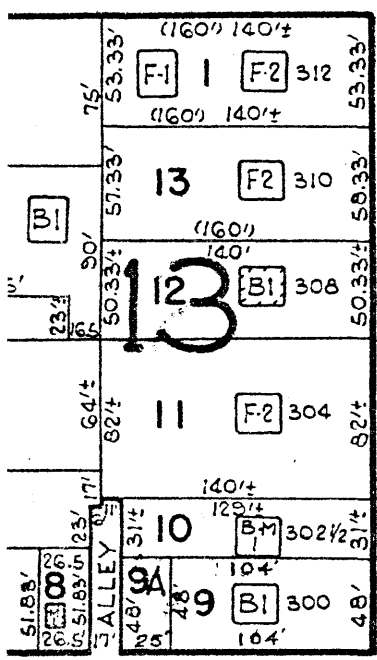
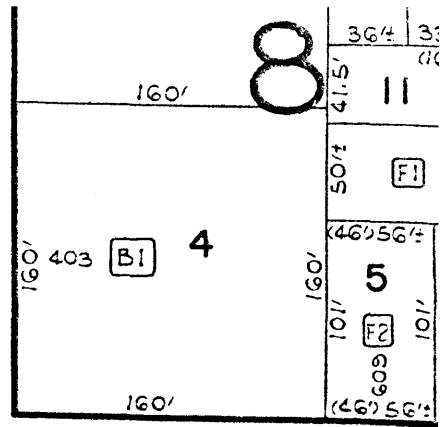
1 PAGE GARDEN CLUB 233'±

283'±

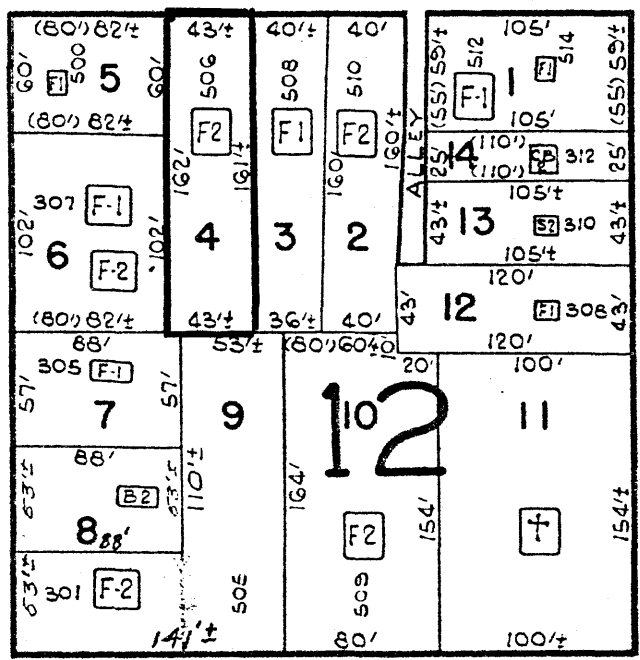
STREE



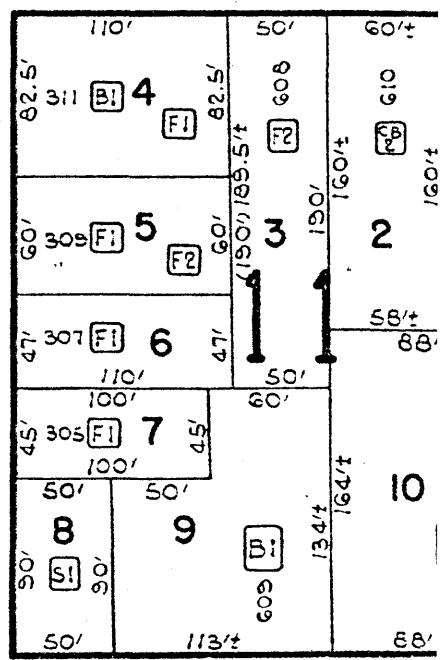
UNION



COMMERCE



NORTH



5

4

FEB 22 1979

REGISTERED

TILLMAN HOUSE
MAP 8 BLOCK
PARCEL 4



TILLMAN HOUSE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

November, 1978

The facade, looking south-southwest.

Photo 1 of 3

APR 17 1979

FEB 22 1979

506



TILLMAN HOUSE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

November, 1978

The frontispiece entrance, looking south.

Photo 2 of 3

FEB 22 1979

APR 17 1979



TILLMAN HOUSE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

A copy of an 1880s photograph showing
northern and western elevations; looking
southwest.

Photo 3 of 3

FEB 22 1979

APR 17 1979