FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received FEB 2 0 1980
date entered APR 3 1980

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

1. Name

historic Belvidere

and/or common Belvidere

2. Location

street & number 70 Homochitto Street ___ not for publication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	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ellen Henderson Goodell and Thomas Greenebury Kelly

street & number 70 Homochitto Street

city, town Natchez ___ vicinity of state Mississippi 39120

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 elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	X moved date 1927
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the southerly side of Homochitto Street within the city limits of Natchez, Belvidere is a one-and-a-half story, rectangular, Greek Revival frame residence set upon a brick foundation wall that forms a fully-raised basement at the rear of the house. Its gabled roof is pierced by four inside-end brick chimneys and an outside brick chimney that services the fireplace in the early-enclosed original rear gallery, or present dining room. Two pedimented dormers with pilasters are located on the front slope of the roof. A pedimented entry porch three bays wide fronts the five-bay northeasterly facade. The pediment is supported by four, molded, unfluted Greek Doric columns which are repeated on the front wall by pilasters with an incised Greek decoration, and the columns and pilasters are linked by a balustrade of heavy, turned balusters. All window sash contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by original shutter blinds (removed from the house for painting at the time of the submitted photographs). The four windows of the facade are set above molded panels with the panels of the two windows opening onto the entry porch being operable jib doors. The entrance doorway consists of a single-leaf, two-panel molded door enframed by pilasters and set within sidelights over molded panels and a full-width transom. A full entablature supported by molded pilasters with incised decoration completes the entrance doorway.

The interior floor plan of the house is a double-pile plan with wide central hallway having double parlors on the easterly side and two connected bedrooms on the westerly side. The double parlors and hallway are similarly trimmed with doors and windows that are symmetrically molded with corner blocks, molded panels beneath the windows, bases that have two fasciae and are molded, and plaster cornices. Two elaborate plaster centerpieces of 1830's design adorn the hallway, which is divided into two approximately equal areas by sliding doors which slide completely into the walls of the adjacent rooms. The slots into which the doors slide are enframed by molded and paneled pilasters. The sliding doors which separate the double parlors are installed in the usual manner, but the paneled and molded pilasters which enframe the doorway opening do not support a cornice or entablature. The mantel pieces in the double parlors, the rear one still retaining its marbelizing, are matching and feature detached, fluted Doric columns. The mantel pieces in the two bedrooms are also matching, but they have detached Tuscan columns and are more plainly molded. The bases in the bedrooms match the bases in the rest of the downstairs, but these rooms have no plaster cornices, no molded panels beneath the windows on the western elevation, and molded architrave door and window surrounds. All interior doors are four-paneled and molded and retain their original oak graining.

At the rear of the hallway is a doorway, identical to the entrance doorway, that leads to a long room, now the dining room but once used as a secondary hallway leading to an attached service wing and brick dining room that was demolished when the house was moved in 1927. This dining room and a small bedroom at its easterly end were formed by a very early enclosure of the original rear gallery of the house. Later additions, which include a kitchen, bathroom, and porch, have been added across the rear of the early enclosure.

The stairs to the upstairs are enclosed and entered through a doorway at the rear of the main hallway on the westerly wall. The stairs make a quarter turn and continue in a straight flight to terminate in an upstairs hallway, part of which has been sympathetically enclosed for a bathroom. In this hallway are two original closets with batten doors which still contain their original beaded wooden strips with metal hooks for hanging. The upstairs contains two bedrooms with beaded bases and no mantel pieces. The basement area of the house is used for storage and rental and was constructed in 1927 when the house was moved. No original outbuildings survive.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1837 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Belvidere is an outstanding example of an early Greek Revival cottage residence, whose unusual features and remarkable integrity set it apart from its contemporaries. The Greek Revival Style, which was introduced into Natchez in 1833 with the construction of the Agricultural Bank (now Britton and Koontz First National Bank), remained popular until after the Civil War. Belvidere, like The Burn, Richmond, Devereux, and the Van Court Town House, was one of the first residences constructed in this new Greek Revival Style. Although a cottage in form, the interior proportions of the house are grand, and the installation of the sliding doors in the hallway is unique for the Natchez area (see physical description). Also unusual are the "fake" jib panels of the windows which are located in the outer bays of the facade. Owned by the Henderson family and their descendents since 1868, Belvidere is that rare gem of an historic house that has never been restored. All interior doors retain their original graining; one mantel piece retains its original marbleizing; the original hardware survives intact; and the cast-iron fireplace surrounds, fenders, and covers remain also. The furnishings, for the most part, have been in the house since it was acquired in 1868 by John W. Henderson.

Belvidere was probably constructed about 1837 when the land upon which it formerly stood and presently stands was sold for building lots (Adams County Deed Book Y:504). The person for whom the house was constructed was either Samuel or Robert Patterson, or possibly both. Samuel and Robert Patterson were either brothers or father and son. A trace of the title to the property lists Robert Patterson and Hugh Lucas as initial joint purchasers (Deed Book FF:273) with the house having been lost due to mortgage foreclosure against Robert Patterson in 1842 (The Weekly Courier and Journal [Natchez], Jan. 13, 1842, p. 3). However, the following inscription is etched into a sidelight of the rear doorway, "Sam'l Patterson/ 39/Spt 21 1831 possibly 7 ." Although a local historian has listed the builder of Belvidere as Robert Samuel Patterson, perhaps to reconcile the discrepency of the two names, Samuel and Robert Patterson were definitely two separate individuals. A Robert Patterson was listed as the administrator of the estate of Samuel Patterson in a probate document dated December 15, 1838 (Probate Box 21), and pieces of property were exchanged between a Robert and a Samuel Patterson in 1836 (Deed Book W:567). Samuel Patterson was a merchant and was listed as one of the early members of the Natchez Mechanical Society (D. Clayton James, Antebellum Natchez [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968], p. 94).

In 1846, Belvidere became the residence of merchant John Coulson (Deed Book FF:474), who traded the house to John W. Henderson for The Cliffs Plantation in 1868 (Deed Book PP: 93-4). Belvidere's historical significance is derived principally from its association with the Henderson family, whose patriarch, John I, came to Natchez in 1787 and wrote the first book published in the Natchez territory. Three properties already listed on the National Register and one property submitted at the same time as Belvidere are associated with this outstanding Mississippi family. The Elms and Pleasant Hill were both built for John Henderson I; the Henderson-Britton House (Magnolia Hall) for John I's son Thomas; and The Cliffs Plantation for Thomas's son John W. John W. Henderson was born in Natchez in 1832 and died in 1916. During his long life, he was a planter, a Civil War hero, a merchant, county school cuperintendent, an ordained Presbyterian minister, and an author. He attained the rank of First Lieutenant in the Confederate Army and returned to Natchez after

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Natchez **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	651850	3491570	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached xerox of city tax map with the nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on city tax map 58, block 1, parcel 1.

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** December 31, 1979

street & number 506 High Street **telephone** (601) 442-9786 or (601) 442-2500

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 X 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 Elbert R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** February 13, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce **date** 4/8/80

for **Keeper of the National Register**

Attest: Carol A. Dobbs **date** 4/3/80

Chief of Registration

the war to abandon his planting career in fabor of assuming the management of his late father's brokerage and mercantile firm. He later became the manager of the Natchez mercantile firm of Stockman and Newman. After the S. B. Newman & Company of New Orleans failed and forced the closing of the Natchez branch in 1880, Henderson became county superintendent of education, a position he held for thirty-four years (The Natchez Democrat, Aug. 19, 1916, p. 2).

Belvidere was moved to the northeast corner of its fourteen-acre tract in 1927 to make room for the construction of a new Natchez high school (now Margaret Martin Junion High School). As a result of the move, the original outbuildings and a one-story frame wing attached to a large 40 by 40 foot, brick dining room were destroyed. The original site was on a hill, but the house now sits on a flat lot about sixty feet from Homochitto Street. The present owners and residents of Belvidere are Ellen Henderson Goodell and her uncle Greenebury Kelly, great-granddaughter and grandson of John W. Henderson. Mr. Kelly has conscientiously recorded in writing and sketches his memories of Belvidere (room use, gardens, fences, walks, cisterns, outbuildings, and daily family life) before and after the 1927 move.

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books Y, FF, W, PP.

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Probate Box 21.

James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register File. Adams Co. Pleasant Hill, Henderson-Britton House, and The Cliffs Plantation (Mary W. Miller).

The Natchez Democrat, Aug. 19, 1916.

The Weekly Courier and Journal [Natchez], Jan. 13, 1842.

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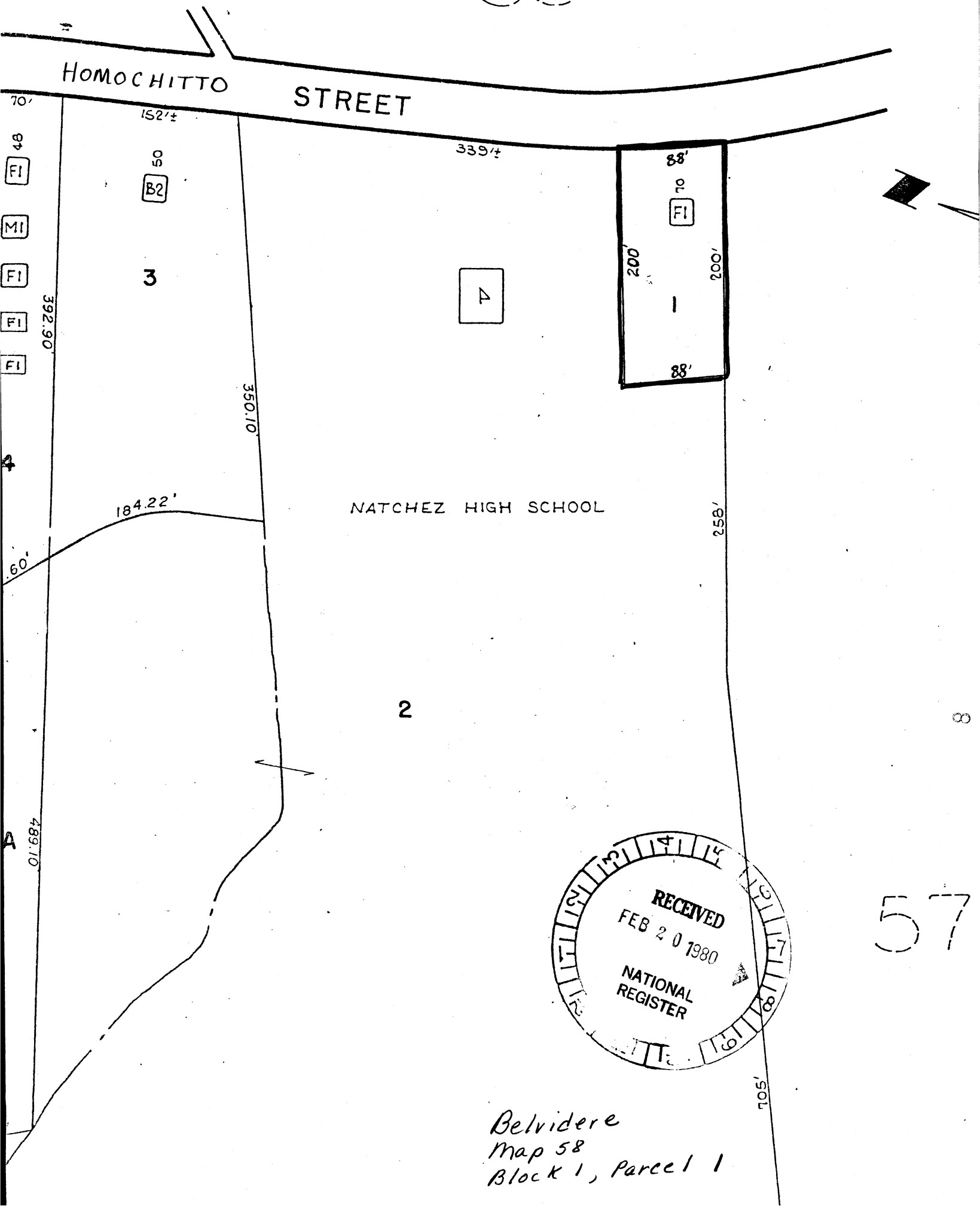

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Belvidere
Map 58
Block 1, Parcel 1

BELVIDERE

APR 8 1980

Natchez, Adams Co., Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

The northeasterly facade elevation, viewed from the junction of front walk and public sidewalk.

Photo 1 of 4

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BELVIDERE
Natchez, Adams Co., Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking southerly, the front and rear parlors of Belvidere.

Photo 2 of 4

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BELVIDERE
Natchez, Adams Co., Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking southwesterly, the main hallway showing the sliding doors and plaster center piece.

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Photo 3 of 4 APR 8 1980

BELVIDERE
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary W. Miller--December 1979

Looking northerly, the rear and south-easterly elevation.

Photo 4 of 4

APR 8 1980

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