

**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

For HCRS use only

received OCT 22 1980

date entered NOV 24 1980

**1. Name**

historic Saragossa

and/or common Saragossa

**2. Location**

street & number Five miles south of Natchez on the Saragossa Road about ☐ not for publication  
one mile off the Lower Woodville Road

city, town Natchez ☒ vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 1

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Mamie F. Smith, Mrs. Routh Smith Crowell, Mrs. Mamie Smith Hammett, Mr. Austin W. Smith, Mr. Walton P. Smith, and Mrs. Katherine Smith Wickliffe

street & number Route 3, Box 81

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 eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Saragossa, which is located about five miles south of Natchez, is approached from a gravel drive which begins at the terminus of Saragossa Road, a paved road that is marked and is entered to the east of the Old Woodville Road. The one-story brick house, which is set upon a basement that is fully raised on the facade, features a gable roof with high shed-roof attachments on all four sides. An inside-end chimney is located at each gable end of the house, a chimney pierces the rear slope of the roof, and two outside-end chimneys are located on the clapboard wall of the enclosed rear gallery. Double-tiered galleries, partially enclosed, encircle the entire house. The galleries are supported on the basement level by brick piers which were originally stuccoed but rebuilt in the 20th century with exposed brick, and on the main level by wooden box columns with molded capitals that are linked by lengths of chain. The basement level galleries on the rear and side elevations toward the rear of the house exist in the form of moat-like channels with a flight of steps rising from each side channel in a southeasterly direction into the back yard. The upper and lower galleries are connected by a flight of stairs rising in a single straight flight in a northwesterly direction on the northeast side of the house. The main floor gallery is partially unfloored on the northeast side of the house and partially floored with metal bars on the southwest side to provide light in the basement gallery moats.

Saragossa has undergone at least two major remodelings, one in the 1830's and the other in the mid-19th century, since its original construction in the early 19th century. The main level, northwesterly facade, which is divided into three slightly asymmetrical bays, is finished with a molded base, and the entrance doorway, which is raised two steps from the level of the gallery floor, is located in the centermost bay. This entrance doorway consists of a four-paneled and molded door which dates to the 1830's and is matched by the two exterior doors opening into the basement dining room. Two additional matching doors and two, finely detailed, wooden mantel pieces of the 1830's period have been reused in the one surviving slave quarters building and were probably originally located in the main house. After the acquisition by the Smith family in 1855, Saragossa underwent its most extensive remodeling. The main rear gallery was totally enclosed and the basement rear gallery partially enclosed. The main floor became T-shaped in plan with double parlors in the original brick portion and two bedrooms separated by a sitting room/hallway in the rear frame enclosure. The basement area of the original brick portion became a large formal dining room and the moat-like rear gallery was enclosed into two smaller rooms, presently a kitchen and pantry. Two small pantry rooms were built at the rear corners of the basement gallery providing additional support for the bedroom additions of the main floor. The brick original structure and the rear mid-19th century frame additions were given a harmonious appearance by the application of scored stucco on all but the rear elevation which was finished with clapboards. All windows of the main floor facade and side elevations contain large, six-over-six, double-hung sash, and almost all door and window openings are closed with mid-19th century shutter blinds.

The two-bay basement facade features casement windows with jib doors which are echoed inside the basement dining room by built-in china cabinets in the gable-end walls. The basement dining room is floored with a highly polished cement, the mantel piece is wooden and pilastered, and the surrounds and bases are unmolded. The enclosed rear gallery rooms of the basement feature board-and-batten doors and one mid-19th century wooden mantel piece with shouldered architrave that matches the mantel pieces, one removed, of the main floor bedrooms. The double parlors feature sliding doors in a shouldered architrave surround and marble mantel pieces, one of which has been removed. All bases of the principal floor are molded with a single fascia, and the doors of the mid-19th century remodeling are four-paneled and molded.

An original frame slave quarters, in deteriorated condition, is located to the rear of the south corner of the main house and features a gabled roof with central chimney, gallery, and two-bay facade.

## 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)

Early 19th century;

**Specific dates** ca. 1830; mid-19th c. **Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Saragossa is an unusual and outstanding example of an early vernacular residence of the Natchez area. Its architectural style reflects the West Indian influence that characterized the architecture of the Natchez region in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and influenced the development of regional architecture well into the nineteenth century. Although historians unfamiliar with the unique history of Natchez often characterize such buildings as Spanish in architectural character (Spain having governed Natchez from 1779 until 1798), the West Indian tradition is substantiated historically. Two unrelated travellers, in 1808 and 1809, remarked in published accounts on the similarity between Natchez and St. John's, Antigua, and, since Natchez was governed by countries who also had outposts in the West Indies and was commercially linked to these West Indian outposts, this similarity in architectural style is understandable. Saragossa and the House on Ellicott's Hill, a National Historic Landmark constructed 1798-1802, are unique among Natchez residences evidencing this West Indian character, because they are the only extant buildings that feature a gabled roof with high, shed-roof attachments on all four sides. A feature of Saragossa thought to be unique are the mid-19th century casement windows with jib doors located in the northwesterly basement facade. The actual date of construction for Saragossa is unknown. Stylistically and historically, the house appears to have been originally constructed early in the 19th century, although all interior millwork dates to after 1830 with the exception of one pair of interior doors with glazed upper panels that are located in the basement level. Architectural investigation of the history of the house's construction is hampered by the plain, unmolded door and window surrounds found almost universally throughout the house. However, the slightly asymmetrical fenestration of the facade and side elevations, the shape of the roof, the construction techniques, the proportions of the house, and an 1826 survey map depicting the house and eight slave quarters buildings to the rear (Adams County Deed Book HH:71) all unite to support a construction date in the early 19th century. Saragossa was probably constructed as an overseer's house and later renovated to become a major family residence. Supporting this assumption are the unmolded door and window surrounds, the indications that the house possibly originally faced the eight slave quarters buildings, the proximity of the quarters buildings to the main house as evidenced in the 1826 survey map and by the surviving quarters building, and the ownership of Saragossa by wealthy planters Stephen Duncan (1823-1835) and William St. John Elliot (1835-1849; 1855) who had substantial residences closer to town. Although the house appears to have undergone at least two major remodelings in the 1830's and the mid-19th century, its pre-Civil War integrity is intact. Saragossa has been owned by the same family since 1855, when the house became the residence of Walton and Anna Williams Smith (Deed Book KK:312; KK:440), and its collection of mid-19th century furnishings and family memorabilia is outstanding.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books N, V, HH, II, KK.

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Will Book 1.

Adams County, Mississippi. Circuit Clerk. Marriage Book 6.

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 8.26 acres

Quadrangle name Kingston, Miss.-La.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UMT References

A 

1	5
---	---

6	5	1	8	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	8	5	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with right angle corners and equal sides of 600 feet each with the center being the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The sides of the figure are parallel to the walls of the house.

### 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 Historic Natchez Foundation date September 14, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 1761 telephone (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 ☒ 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 *Robert B. Williams*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 2, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

*Forrest W. Ray*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/24/80

Attest:

*Wm. B. Davis*  
Chief of Registration

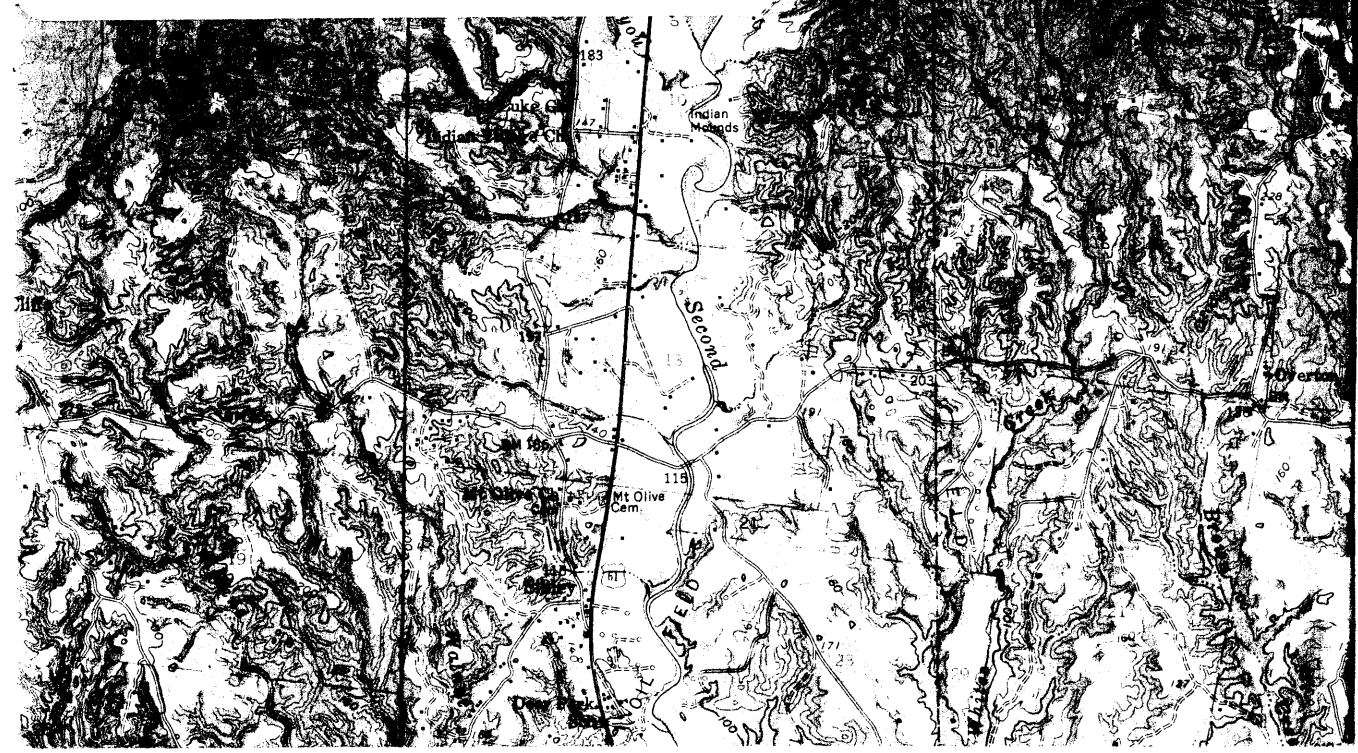
date 11/24/80



SARAGOSSA  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES

15/ 651815 / 3485000







Saragossa

Natchez Vicinity, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi

Austin W. Smith, Route 5, Box 88,  
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

August, 1980

Facade or northeast elevation

NOV 24 1980

OCT 22 1980

1/3







Saragossa

Natchez vicinity, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi

Austin W. Smith, Route 5, Box 88,  
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

August, 1980

Southwest elevation

NOV 24 1980

2/3

OCT 22 1980



Encl: 4/4

Saragossa

Natchez vicinity, Adams County, Missis-  
sippi

Austin W. Smith, Route 5, Box 88,  
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

August, 1980

Rear or southeast elevation

NOV 24 1980

OCT 22 1980

3/3