a

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Adams-- French House, reference number 88000125 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 02/22/1988, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of 03/04/1988. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

S:/nr_nhl/jjoecke/archives/inventoriesandfrc/certificanletter/certifyletter

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received

date entered

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 Adams- French House

and/or common Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number NW Corner of N. Meridian and Marshall Streets ~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Aberdeen ~~N/A~~ vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Monroe code 095

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	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: Fraternal I

4. Owner of Property

name Masonic Lodge c/o Elvis A. Sledge

street & number 102 Gordon Drive

city, town Aberdeen N/A vicinity of state MS 39730

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chancery Clerk Building

street & number 201 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen state MS 39730

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1936 X federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress No. Miss. 71

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Adams-French House is an imposing, two story, three by four bay, Greek Revival mansion with a full-width, two story gallery featuring paired, fluted Ionic columns. The clapboarded building rests on a brick foundation and has a full basement. Its original flat roof has been replaced by a truncated hip roof.

The house's front (east) facade, sheathed in horizontal flushboard, is dominated by an undercut gallery with four pairs of fluted Ionic columns supporting an entablature with a dentilled frieze. The original wooden deck of the gallery has been replaced by a concrete deck. Both the soffitts and ceiling of the gallery are panelled. Furthermore, the front facade is divided into three bays by pairs of panelled pilasters featuring simple bases and capitals. Located in the central bay, the double-leafed, main entrance is flanked by slender panelled pilasters which delineate a two-light transom, corner lights and three-light sidelights with panelled aprons. The whole is flanked by wider panelled pilasters and capped by an entablature. The jib windows in the end bays of the facade and the one above the entrance imitate the configuration of the frontispiece. Each is comprised of a six-over-six sash window with a paneled jib door below, flanked by panelled pilasters and four-light sidelights with paneled aprons, and capped by an entablature. Each of the second story windows is further adorned by a balcony with a delicate cast iron railing.

Each side elevation is marked by two exterior brick chimneys with flaring, partially stuccoed bases and corbelled, denticulated caps. Each chimney is flanked, on both stories, by six-over-six double hung sash windows with molded surrounds and bull's-eye corner blocks. The chimneys pierce the dentilled entablature surrounding the house.

The rear facade features a three-bay wide, one story porch with a turned spindle balustrade linking paired Ionic columns which support an entablature and a hip roof. The porch rests on rectangular brick piers and is accessed by a staircase on its north side. This porch is a twentieth century alteration. Located in the porch area is a central, double-leafed door with a molded surround and corner blocks.

The Adams-French House was sensitively rehabilitated on the exterior by the Masonic organization, Aberdeen Lodge #32 F. & A.M. in the mid-twentieth century. According to an 1890 Sanborn Map, the house had, at that time, a one story, polygonal bay on its south (side) facade, and a one story, rear porch which extended slightly beyond the south edge of the west elevation and terminated at a one story appendage on the northern edge of the west facade. The outbuildings consisted of one unidentified building, a one story shed and a long, somewhat L-shaped, one story building that contained a shed, the outhouse and a greenhouse with a glass roof. It seems in later HABS photographs that the bay on the side facade has been removed. However, at this late date, the rear porch and the appendage

still remained. The one story porch rested on brick piers and had simple, wooden posts connected by a plain wooden balustrade. It is probable that these features were either removed during the Masons' restoration or had deteriorated away prior to the beginning of the work. None of the outbuildings that appeared on the 1890 Sanborn Map are still extant.

The Adams-French House dominates the northwest corner of N. Meridian and Marshall Streets. The house faces Acker Park on the east side of N. Meridian Street. The land rises slightly as it extends west from N. Meridian Street and the front elevation of the house is set into this slope. The lay of the land then levels off and the house's foundation increases in height to accommodate this. The large, grassy lot features no formal landscaping but is interspersed by small trees and shrubbery. Directly to the northwest of the house is a modern barbecue pavilion.

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	___ transportatio
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specif
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1855 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Adams-French House is one of the outstanding examples of the Greek Revival style as it was applied to residential architecture in northeast Mississippi. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. Unusual features such as the three balconies with cast iron railings are combined with more typical Greek Revival design elements like the paired Ionic columns to create a front elevation of Classically-inspired sophistication. The balconies are a striking feature in Aberdeen because the other great mansions with second story balconies (Dr. William Alfred Sykes House, Old Homestead and Holliday Haven) have only a central one with a variation of sheaves of wheat railing. The Adams-French House balconies were manufactured in Holly Springs, Mississippi (Helen Crawford's Notes on Aberdeen History located in the Old Athens Jail File, Monroe Co., Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

The origins of the house are unclear. According to local tradition, John Cox built this mansion in 1856 for his daughter Mary and her businessman husband, Robert S. Adams. Dr. G. S. Bryan reports, though, that Adams built the house as his home. In any case, primary sources indicate that John Cox (1794-1860) had a daughter named Mary (1831-1899) and that Robert S. Adams (1813-1873) married a Mrs. Mary J. Cox Walker on July 11, 1854. In October of that year, Adams purchased Block 12 (Tax Book Number) where the mansion now stands. It seems unlikely that Cox would have built a mansion as a gift for his daughter on her second wedding.

After Adams' death in 1873, Mary married Dr. A. H. French. In her will, dated March 4, 1899, Mary bequethed Block 12, along with other property, to Dr. French and to her adopted daughter, Mary B. Adams. The property passed through several hands until The Grenada Cotton Compress Company acquired an undivided interest in Block 12 in 1909. In 1920, this company sold Block 12 to the E. L. Young Heading Company. E. L. Young sold a 215 foot by 185 foot lot in the southeast corner of Block 12 (where the mansion is located) to the Masons, Aberdeen Lodge #32 F. & A.M., on October 18, 1926. As the HABS photographs indicate, this organization did not restore the house for use as its Masonic Temple until many years later.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Aberdeen, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	357110	374400	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel Number 108-H-27-012-002-00 as recorded in the Numerical Index located in the Chancery Clerk's Office.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county		code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler - Architectural Historian

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History date September 1987

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state MS 39205

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 6, 1988

For NPS 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

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bryan, G. S. "Another Leaf from the Book of Memory." Aberdeen Examiner. January 1, 1948.

Crawford, Helen M. Personal Files located in Hamilton, Mississippi.

Deed Books for Monroe County located in the Chancery Clerk Building in Aberdeen, Miss.

Historic American Buildings Survey Photographs.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Monroe County, Old Athens Jail.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Aberdeen (1890).

MASONIC TEMPLE

The Adams-French House, Northwest corner of
N. Meridian & Marshall Streets
Aberdeen, Mississippi
Susan Enzweiler
September 1986
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
View to Southwest
Photo 4 of 207

The Adams-French House, Northwest corner of
N. Meridian & Marshall Streets
Aberdeen, Mississippi
Susan Enzweiler
September 1986
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
View to Northeast
Photo 5 of 207

The Adams-French House, Northwest corner of
N. Meridian & Marshall Streets
Aberdeen, Mississippi
HABS Photographer
1930's
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
View to South
Photo 7 of 207