

United States Department of the Interior
National Park 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 NPS use only

received **SEP 27 1982**
date entered

1. Name

historic Airlie, Old Buckner Place, (Belvidere)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9 Elm Street N/A not for publication

city, town Natchez N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 1

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☒ private residence
☐ object	☒ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ entertainment
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ government
		☐ no	☐ industrial
			☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Miss Mary Buckner Merrill and Mrs. Violet Merrill Olsen

street & number 9 Elm Street

city, town Natchez N/A 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 Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date Catalogue, 1941 Supplement 1959 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Airlie is a one-story dwelling, roughly rectangular in shape, with front and rear galleries and a doubled-pitched roof. The house sits detached on 7 acres of land. A circular gravel drive leads from Elm Street to the front gallery. An old kitchen and cistern sit behind the eastern side of the house, as well as a series of garages.

The front and rear galleries run the full length of the main body of the house. East and west wings of a lesser depth complete the full width of the house. While not connected to the main galleries, each wing maintains a separate front gallery. All these galleries have slender, chamfered square wooden columns and simple railings with slender square balusters. The front gallery is supported by a solid wall while a series of brick pier lattice between hold up the rear. The floor of the rear gallery is several steps lower than the main body of the house. Both front and rear galleries have a flight of central wooden steps with wrought iron railings directly below the front and rear entrance. Each entrance contains a pair of wide glazed doors with glazed sidelights. An additional entrance, most likely dating from the original construction of the house, is centrally located in the front face of the eastern main body of the house. It is a single door. The windows of Airlie have louvered shutters and are double hung with upper and lower sashes divided by narrow muntions into 12 small panes. All the exterior detailings of the house has been consistently followed.

The roof of Airlie is a fine example of a late 18th Century vernacular style. In the front, it is gabled with a shed roof extending over the front gallery. In the rear, the roof follows a gradual slope from the pitch, extending this pitch over the rear gallery. The rafters of the steeply pitched gable are framed on the front and rear walls of the front rooms. Rafters of a lesser pitch are framed on the front galleries and the back wall of the rear room attaching near the pitch. As a result, the ceilings of the rear rooms and front gallery are the same height while the ceilings of the front rooms are considerably higher. Accordingly, the ceiling of the central hallway drops abruptly midway through the house. The ceiling of the rear gallery is sloped with the pitch of the rear roof. The wooden framing of the gallery ceilings remains exposed.

The east and west wings continue the roofline of the main body of the house but because the wings are of a lesser depth, walls have been extended up from the galleries of the roof.

Airlie consists of 8 rooms arranged around a long, broad central hallway. This hallway runs the full depth of the house connecting the front and rear galleries. Four large rooms, two front and back, make up the main body of the house. These four rooms are all accessed through the central hallway. The eastern front and rear main rooms are also connected by the central doorway. The two wings of the east wing are accessed through a small hallway leading off the eastern front room. The western set of main rooms are both connected to their smaller western living counterparts. Galleries of the wings are accessed only through the east and west main front rooms.

Interior detailing of the house consists of moldings of the 1830's Greek revival style. The door and window casings are mitered. Each of the four main rooms, as well as the two front rooms of the wings, have their own chimney and fireplaces.

The original house built circa 1793 is now contained within the eastern half of the main body of the house. It is made up of front and rear rooms with their associated galleries and respective fireplaces and chimneys. Access to the house was through front and rear central doorways and a corresponding doorway connected the two rooms. Each outside doorway had one large double hung small paned window to each side. This front door and its windows have already been mentioned. The back door has been weatherboarded over. The broad central hallway and two left main rooms were added in the 1830's. Since no joints are apparent in the facade, it is believed that the present weatherboarding was added at this time. The wings were added in the 1850's.

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Airlie, Adams County, Mississippi

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

City of Natchez Landmark Inventory

Local X

Date: 1973 - 81

Depository: Office of City Planning Director/Municipal Building

City: Natchez, MS 39120

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	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☒ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1793 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Airlie is an important example of the early Natchez Planter's Home of the late 18th, early 19th Centuries. Its distinctive double-pitched roof of a gable with an attached roof shed over the front gallery, its glazed sidelights on either side of the front and rear doorways, and its exposed framing in the ceiling of the galleries, all attest to early construction and significance. Airlie rests on land awarded to Stephen Minor in 1793 as part of a two Spanish land grants.¹ When the site changed hands in 1800, it was described as being that part on which the Mansion House now stands.² Although the house has been added to several times in its early years, these additions have maintained and enhanced the original design and character of the house.

¹Adams Co., Chancery Clerk, Deed Book B:68

²Adams Co., Chancery Clerk, Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Seven

Quadrangle name Natchez, MS-LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	15	6	5	12	3	18	10	3	14	9	13	6	11	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The area outlined in red on enclosed map (Attachment 1). Please note: streets shown on city tax map within the red outlined area where not built.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ellen Fogarty

organization N/A

date September 13, 1982

street & number 1008 Locust Street

telephone 601-634-5968

city or town Vicksburg

state MS

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 *Robert J. Bury*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 20, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Airlie, Adams County, Mississippi

Continuation sheet

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REFERENCES

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ADAMS COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK, DEED BOOK B:68



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

Front view facing north

Photo #1 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

Rear gallery, facing east

Photo #2 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

Rear entrance with glazed sidelights,
facing south

Photo #3 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

Front gallery, main entrance, exposed
beams, west porch beyond. Facing west

Photo #4 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

East porch & side of front gallery,
profile of roofline. Facing west

Photo #5 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

Main entrance, front gallery,

Facing north

Photo #6 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

West porch from front gallery,

Facing west

Photo #7 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

West porch and extended roofline

Facing northeast

Photo #8 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer M E Fogarty

June 1982

Front gallery with main and original
entrances, east porch beyond.

Facing east

Photo #9 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer: M E Fogarty

June 1982

Main entrance with glazed sidelights

Facing north

Photo #10 of 11



Airlie, Natchez, MS

Photographer, M E Fogarty

June 1982

Back gallery, stairs to rear entrance,

Brick piers with lattice work.

Facing west

Photo #11 of 11