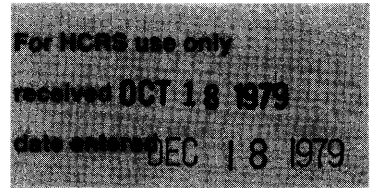


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Montpellier

and/or common Montpelier

2. Location

street & number SE of Natchez on MS 551 Route 8, Box 240 not for publication

city, town Natchez vic. vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Mississippi 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Arthur P. Fowler, Miss Sue Caroline Fowler, Mr. Dix Fowler, Mr. John R. Fowler, Mrs. Roberta Fowler Blankenstein

street & number Route 8, Box 240

city, town Natchez vicinity of state Mississippi 39120

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse/Chancery Clerk

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Natchez state Mississippi

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

Situated about three miles east of Natchez on the northern side of Liberty Road, Montpelier is a one-and-a-half story, square, frame Greek Revival residence. The gabled roof is pierced by two inside-end chimneys, and two gabled dormers that are pilastered with molded cornices are located on both the front and rear slopes of the roof. The southerly facade, which is composed of matched boards finished with an unmolded base, is fronted by a gallery supported by slender molded box columns, and the gallery ceiling is plastered. The columns were originally linked by a railing with molded handrail, now missing. The center bay of the five-bay facade contains the entrance doorway which consists of a full molded entablature supported by molded pilasters. The double-leaf doors, each containing one molded and fielded panel on the exterior and two molded panels on the interior, are surrounded by a transom and sidelights set over molded and fielded panels.

The floor plan of the house is a double-pile plan with central passage, the rear portion of which widens to become the dining room. All rooms of the downstairs are identically trimmed. The doors and windows have architrave surrounds with two fasciae, the bases have two fasciae and are molded, and the doors are four-paneled and molded. The rear doorway, located in the dining room, echoes the front entrance doorway. The house features only two fireplace openings, one located in each of the two front rooms, and each has its original wooden mantelpiece. The Tudor-arched mantelpieces are unusual for Greek Revival residences in Natchez.

The most outstanding architectural feature of Montpelier is its partially open staircase, which is entered on the southern wall of the dining room. The stair begins in an open quarter-turn with graceful curve and continues through an enclosure toward the front of the house to terminate in the upstairs hall. The bottom newel is turned and the balusters of the open portion of the stair are turned and tapered. The two newels at the head of the stair are partially turned with ball finials, and the stairwell is railed by rectangular-sectioned balusters.

The two upstairs bedrooms and hall are more simply trimmed than the downstairs. The door and window surrounds have architrave surrounds with only one fasciae and the bases are beaded. The doors are four-paneled and molded except for the original board-and-batten closet doors located in the hall and bedrooms.

The rear gallery of Montpelier has been enclosed to accommodate a modern kitchen, den, and bathroom. Otherwise, the integrity of the house is remarkable. Almost all original hardware, which includes porcelain door knobs and brass escutcheons, survives. No original outbuildings remain, but a small family cemetery is located about 2,000 feet to the rear and north of the house.

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 ca. 1845 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Montpellier is an architecturally significant Adams County plantation residence in the Greek Revival Style. This significance derives from its high degree of finish and its remarkable integrity. Its most outstanding architectural feature is its partially enclosed staircase, and unusual for Adams County are its Tudor-arched wooden mantel pieces. An 1873 inventory of the furnishings of the house and the plantation equipment provides an excellent resource for studying the domestic life of the smaller Southern planter (Adams County Probate Box 191).

Montpellier was probably constructed for planter Charles Whitmore not long after 1843, the year in which he acquired the section of the plantation upon which the house is located (Deed Book DD:632). Whitmore first purchased part of Montpellier Plantation in 1828 (Deed Book Q:330), probably shortly after his arrival in America. According to the 1860 census records, Whitmore and his wife were born in England, and, at the time of his death in 1865, Whitmore still owned property in England and had money in English banks. The name Montpellier was first used to describe Whitmore's American property in his 1864 will (Will Book 3:232), in which Montpellier was bequeathed to Whitmore's only child, Sydney Charles.

Sydney Whitmore married Mary Pendleton of Adams County (Joseph B. Stratton, his unpublished diary, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, entry dated April 16, 1862) and resided at Montpellier until his death in 1873 (Probate Box 191). An inventory of the plantation was made at the time of Sydney Whitmore's death (Probate Box 191), and, in 1875, the house was sold by Mary Whitmore to settle her husband's estate (UU:368). The second L in the spelling of Montpellier was dropped after the death of either Charles or Sydney Whitmore.

In 1915, Montpellier Plantation was purchased by Mrs. Mary Lizzie Mock (Deed Book 4E:437), whose daughter, Mrs. Arthur Fowler, and granddaughter, Miss Sue Caroline Fowler, reside in the house. Montpellier has been beautifully preserved by the Fowler family during their residency and is one of the most significant of the Adams County plantation residences.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 6.2 acres

Quadrangle name Washington, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	5	6	5	7	5	3	4	8	9	9	6	0
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 nominated property forms a four-sided figure bounded on the southerly side by Liberty Road (State Route 551) and on the other sides by three straight lines running parallel to the easterly, (see continuation sheet)

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 September 1, 1979

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

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 Edward R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 16, 1979

For HCERS use only

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

attny Carol O'Shull date 12-18-79
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carl A. Dubois date 12/17/79
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 18 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books Q, DD, 4E.

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Probate Box 191.

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Will Book 3.

Stratton, Joseph B. Unpublished diary. Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, La.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Adams Co.,
Miss., 1860.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

northerly, and westerly sides of Montpellier Plantation House and each located 100 yards from the center point of the roof ridge of said house, as measured at right angles to each boundary line.

MONTPELLIER
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES

A 15/656575/3489960

