
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2005



William Johnson House
Natchez National Historical Park

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...
ural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

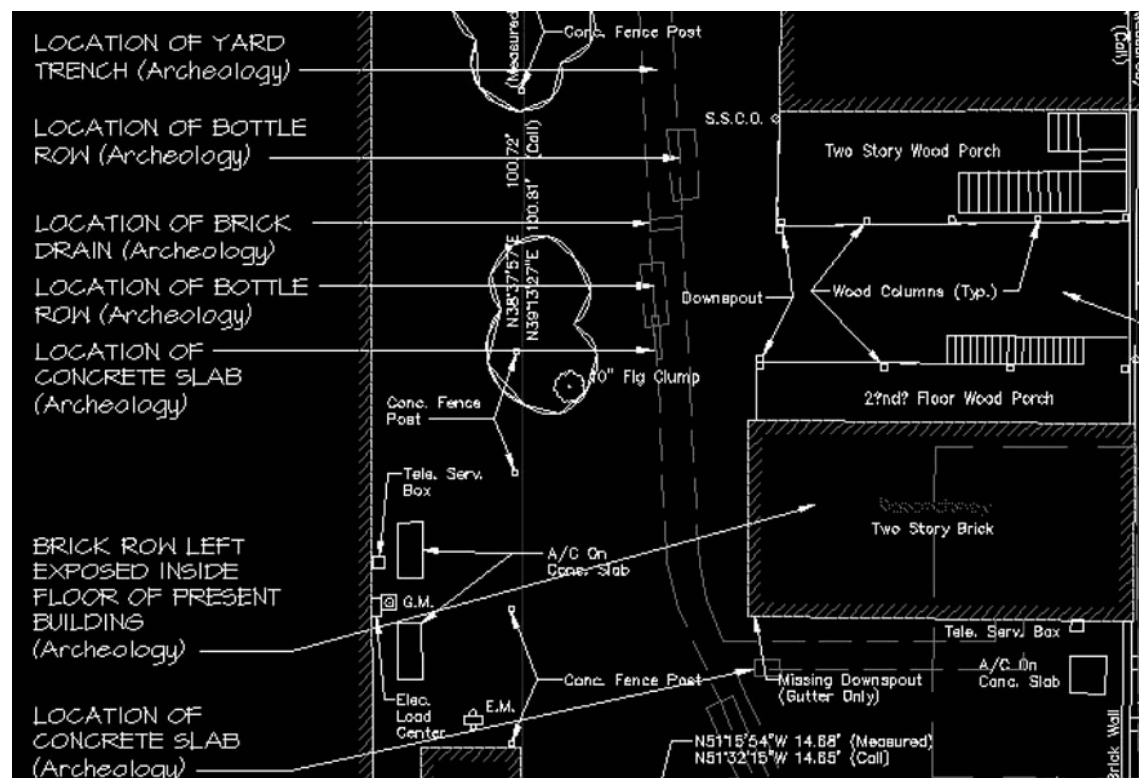
The William Johnson House is located on a 0.14 acre city lot at 210 State Street in downtown Natchez, Mississippi. The two-and-one half story brick house fronts the street and the current (1897) two-story kitchen dependency sits parallel to the rear of the house. The original kitchen dependency was built perpendicular to the main house. To the immediate east of the Johnson House is the McCallum House, which sits on a .045-acre lot and is a two story brick building that shares its west wall with the east wall of the Johnson House. Directly behind the McCallum House is a small level yard space. Both of these lots comprise what is known as the William Johnson House Complex and total 0.20 acres. See Figure 3: Ownership Map.

William Johnson's diary provides much in the way of documentation for the land use. Archaeological work has uncovered a wealth of artifacts to support these activities. (Atkinson). Johnson's diary documents the construction of a hen house, a corn house, a wash house, a carriage house, two subterranean brick cisterns, a cistern house, three small sheds, a replacement shed, a "back building" (kitchen dependency) and numerous animal pens. He also mentions the construction of several different types of fences, laying brick pavement, and digging a gutter. (Hogan and Davis, eds.) Through archeological investigation, evidence of several privies, a cistern, outbuildings, and brick and glass bottle edging materials for gardens and walkways has been located on the property. Existing above ground structures include a brick retaining wall on the east property line between the two main buildings and extending south beyond the kitchen; a gated wooden fence (removed in 2003 and rebuilt in 2004); and the recently refurbished two-story wooden porch at the rear of the William Johnson House. Further investigation of the retaining wall would be necessary in order to date it.

In May of 1842, Johnson described his yard as having "few plants" and few plants exist on the site today. Existing vegetation includes a large Crape Myrtle on State Street, several clumps of Canna Lilies and one fig clump. A twin-trunk Devilwood is located near the kitchen dependency and a grassed lawn is the balance of open space. Johnson's diary mentions planting four Chinaberry Trees and later roses, however, there is no trace of any such plants on the site today. He also mentions buying lath to construct a fence around a vegetable garden. (Hogan and Davis, eds.) None of the existing plants are mature enough to date back to William Johnson's period of occupation in the 1800s, nor were they ever documented in his diary. However, some existing plant materials may have been introduced by the Johnson family, such as fig trees, and are referenced in an interview with Mary Louise Miller in the Supplemental Information Section.

The front facade of the Johnson House is separated from the street by a concrete sidewalk and a rectangular planting strip, which contains grass and a substantial Crape Myrtle tree. This tree appears to be of an age that would date it back to 1920, the year of a documented building remodeling project. It is likely that a landscaping enhancement effort, such as planting a street tree, would have coincided with the building upgrades at that time.

Site Plan



William Johnson House Existing Conditions (Class B Topographical Survey by Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions, LLC, drawing 339/80009, annotated by Jaeger & Co. - cropped image of attached 11x17 sheet)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	William Johnson House
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550176
Parent Landscape:	550176

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Natchez National Historical Park -NATC
Park Organization Code:	5565
Park Administrative Unit:	Natchez National Historical Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

Natchez National Historical Park (NATC) was established by Congress in 1988. The William Johnson House was donated to the National Park Service by the City of Natchez in 1990, at which time the property became a unit of Natchez National Historical Park. The house, built in 1841, was the primary residence of William Johnson, a free African American who owned and operated several barber shops in Natchez. Johnson kept a thorough diary that records his daily business and social activities which provides a unique understanding of the relationships between free blacks, whites, and slaves in Natchez during the mid 1800s.

The CLI Level I was conducted in January 2003. The inventory methodology consisted of a review of existing documentation, including narrative and graphic records on file at NATC and SERO as well as inspection of the current conditions on site. This inventory form pertains to the William Johnson House property at 210 State Street, which is the house that Johnson constructed for his family in 1841 and that remained in the Johnson family until 1976.

This 0.20 acre site is classified as a potentially significant landscape for its association with the life of William Johnson, who lived there from 1841 until his death in 1851.

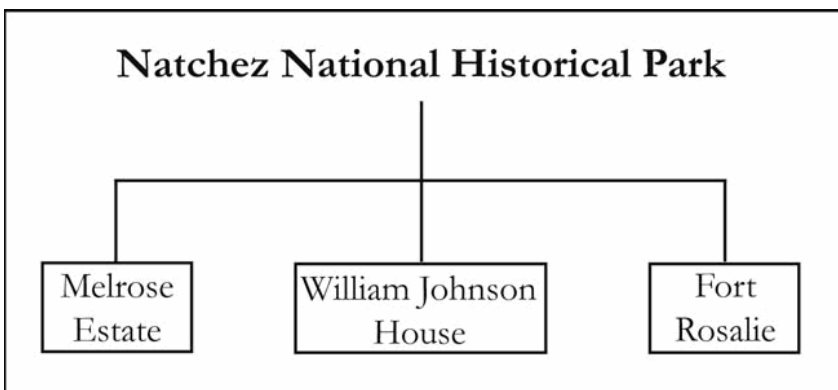


Figure 1: Natchez National Historical Park Landscape Heirarchy

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Jaeger Company (TJC) completed a CLI-Level I in the Spring of 2003 through an IDIQ with Pond and Company. The park contact is Thom Rosenblum. David Hasty completed the Level II CLI in FY 2004.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 07/15/2005

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 07/15/2005

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Tom Waggener (MS SHPO) concurred with the findings of the CLI. See SERO CRD files.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 31 August 2011**

Park Information

Park: Natchez National Historic Park
Name: William Johnson House
Location: Mississippi
County: Adams
CLI#: 550176

Cultural Landscape Condition Information

Landscape Condition:

Good X

Fair

Poor

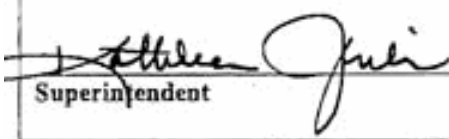
Previous Condition Assessment:

Good – 7/12/2005

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur ✓

Do Not Concur


Superintendent

9/9/2011
Date

Recertification September 2011



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H22 (SERO-CRD)

28 January 2005

Tom Waggener, Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Dear Mr. Waggener:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the William Johnson House in Natchez, Mississippi, a part of the Natchez National Historic Park (NHP). The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the William Johnson House CLI and ask that you return the concurrence form.

The William Johnson House is part of a National Register nomination for Natchez NHP that was accepted on 7 October 1988. No supporting details for the William Johnson property were provided in the nomination, but the enclosed CLI includes a statement of significance, a written history, analysis and evaluation of cultural landscape features, and graphic attachments.

If you have any questions about this document, please contact David Hasty, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 562-3117 extension 630 or by e-mail at david_hasty@nps.gov. The concurrence form can be returned by fax at (404) 562-3202, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,

Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resource Division
Southeast Region

Enclosure



Letter to SHPO



HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6955
mdah.state.ms.us

July 15, 2005

Mr. David Hasty
CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region
Atlanta Federal Center, 1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

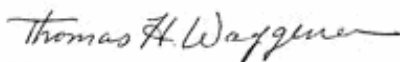
RE: Cultural Landscape Inventory for the William Johnson House at the
Natchez Historic Park

Dear Mr. Hasty:

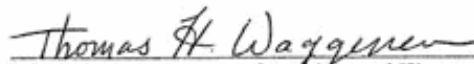
We have reviewed and concur with the referenced document. An original
signature sheet is enclosed.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at the
William Johnson property in Natchez National Historic Site. We concur with the findings of the
Cultural Landscape Inventory and understand that these features contribute to the existing National
Register of Historic Places nomination for Natchez National Historic Park.


Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division Representative

7-15-05
Date

Board of Trustees: William F. Winner, president / Arch Dalrymple III / Kane Ditto / Lynn Crosby Gammill / E. Jackson Garner
Gilbert R. Mason, Sr. / Duncan M. Morgan / Martin D. Ramage, Jr. / Rosemary Taylor Williams / Department Director: H. T. Holmes

SHPO Letter & Signature of Concurrence



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

25 January 2005

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Natchez NHS

From: Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Southeast Region

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the William Johnson House. The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for the CLIs to be certified and counted under goals 1a7 and 1b2B in PMDS, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Keeper of the NR needs to concur on the eligibility of the property for listing. The Park Superintendent also needs to concur on the condition assessment and management category provided within the inventory.

For Park Superintendent approval, signature pages have been sent for the site. This assessment form needs to be signed and returned to the Regional Office for final certification and listing in PMDS goals 1a7 and 1b2B. If the condition assessment and management category are agreed upon, please sign the attached approval forms and return to our office to the attention of David Hasty.

Enclosures



Letter to the Superintendent

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE SHEET

Park Information

Park: Natchez National Historical Park

Name: William Johnson House

Location: Natchez, MS

County: Adams

CLI#: 550176

Cultural Landscape Condition Information

Landscape Condition:

Good ☒

Fair ☐

Poor ☐

Management Category:

Must be preserved ☐

Should be preserved ☒

May be preserved ☐

May be released, altered or destroyed ☐

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur ☒ Do Not Concur ☐

Keith A. Whisenant July 12, 2005
Superintendent Date

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The current 0.20 of an acre is a representative portion of the land that once belonged to William Johnson. The cultural landscape boundaries of this study correspond with those owned by NPS.

State and County:

State: MS

County: Adams County

Size (Acres): 0.20

Boundary Coordinates:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

UTM Zone: 15

UTM Easting: 651,310

UTM Northing: 3,492,580

Location Map:

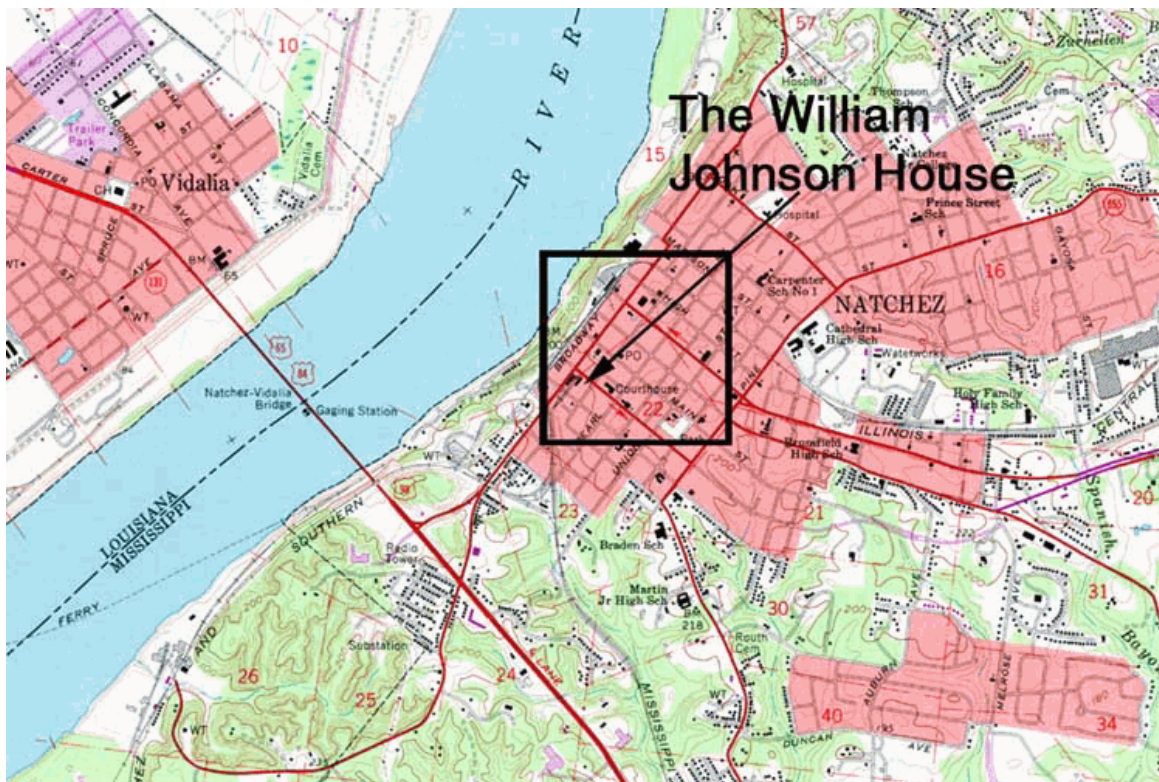


Figure 2: USGS Quad Map indicating the location of the William Johnson House

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Natchez, located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Adams County, Mississippi, has its earliest roots in the American Indian-French interaction of the early eighteenth century. Prior to the coming of the French, the Natchez Indians controlled the area, as had their ancestors for hundreds of years. With the establishment of Fort Rosalie on the river bluff in 1716, Natchez-French conflict arose and resulted in eventual extinction of the Natchez Indians. In 1763, France gave up most of its colonial lands after it lost the French and Indian War to Great Britain. By the late 1700s, Spaniards ruled the area and began to establish a formal Town of Natchez on the bluff. Although the original thirty-four block plan and central plaza have been renumbered, they still remain intact today. The original four lots on each block have been subdivided into numerous smaller lots. By the end of the Spanish occupation in 1798 most of the land lots were privately owned, including the William Johnson lot. (Atkinson 27-30) Just before his death in 1851, land holdings associated with William Johnson included a large parcel to the west of the house lot, which was later sold to the Natchez and Eastern Railroad in 1906. See Figure 3: Ownership Map.

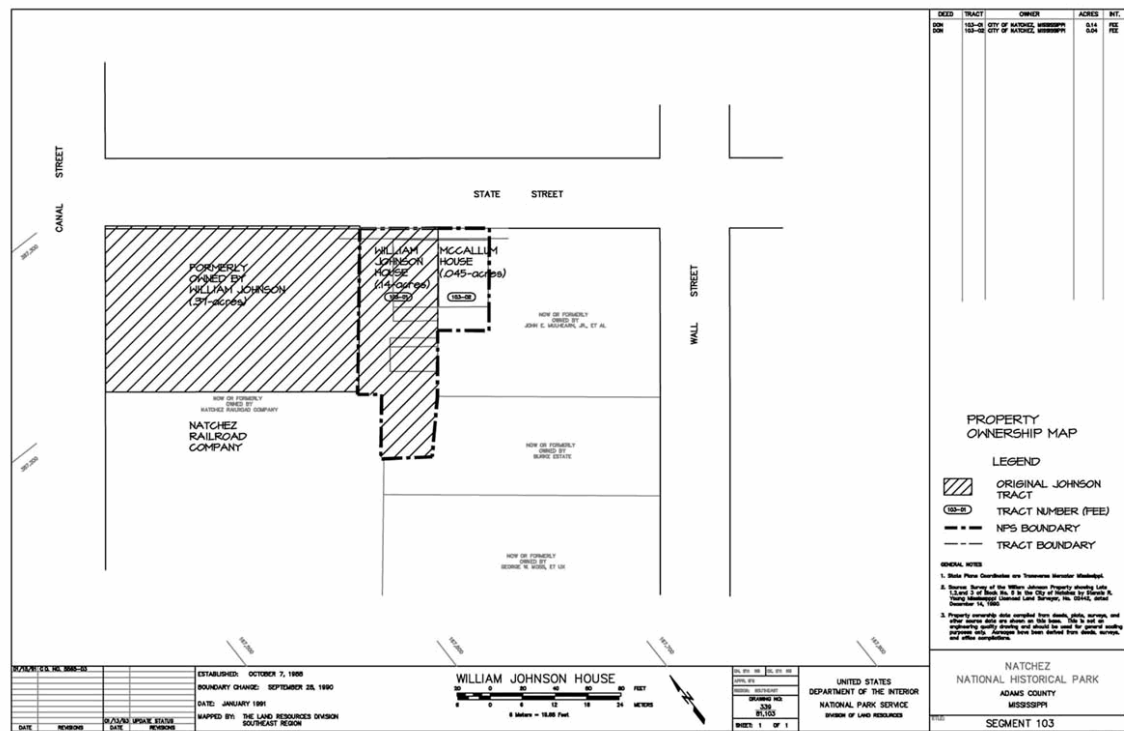


Figure 3: Ownership Map (see attached full-sized print of drawing).

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Natchez soils are on strongly sloping to very steep hillsides in the highly dissected parts of the bluff hills that border the Mississippi Delta floodplains. The typical Natchez soil profile consists of three inches of dark grayish brown silt loam top soil and to eight inches of brown silt loam subsurface, thirty-six inches yellowish brown silt loam subsoil and eighty inches of a yellowish brown silt loam substratum. (USDA NRCS website)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The property is located within the City of Natchez, Adams County. Adams County is represented in the Mississippi Senate as part of District 37; and is in the 3rd US Congressional District.

Tract Numbers: 103-01, 103-02

GIS File Name: N/A

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 10/21/2003

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: No Access Currently

Explanatory Narrative:

With ongoing restoration, no public access is permitted.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The William Johnson House was listed in the National Register on 16 June 1976, prior to it becoming NPS property, as a building in private ownership. The property is also within the bounds of the Natchez-on-Top-of-the-Hill Historic District of 17 September 1979. This nomination is more detailed in nature and addresses topographical features, street plans and planting, density and massing, open spaces and gardens, objects, structures, sites and buildings, and archaeological potential. Both the William Johnson House and the McCallum House are called out as contributing features of the district. The William Johnson House is part of a third National Register nomination, an administrative listing for the Natchez NHP that was accepted on 7 October 1988. No supporting details for the property accompany this last nomination.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Natchez National Historical Park
NRIS Number:	01000276
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	10/07/1988
Other Certifications and Date:	Date Received/Pending Nomination - 10/19/1988

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Multiple Property
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1836 - 1851
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Literature
Facet:	Non-Fiction
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1836 - 1976
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Ways of Life
Facet:	Urban Life
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1841
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Greek Revival (1820-1840)
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Ethnic Heritage
Area of Significance Subcategory:	Black
Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

William Johnson, a free black man from Natchez, Mississippi, provides us with a unique picture of the antebellum South through the meticulous diary he kept and through his home which remains at 210 State Street. His diary recalls the life and vitality of a major southern town, Natchez, Mississippi, before the Civil War. The William Johnson property, a unit of Natchez National Historical Park, is significant under Criteria B and D for its association with William Johnson. It is also significant as a contributing property of the original Spanish town plan for Natchez under Criteria A, C, and D. Much remains at the site to give us a picture of life in the antebellum South.

Born in 1809, William Johnson was freed from slavery at the age of eleven. He took on the name of the man who freed him and became a barber's apprentice in Natchez, Mississippi at his brother-in-law's shop. Johnson later opened his own barber shop in Port Gibson, Mississippi, before returning to Natchez to buy his brother-in-law's business. Johnson continued to grow in prominence in the Natchez community, and, together with his career as a barber, dealt in real estate, land development, lending and farming.

In 1836, Johnson built a house, at present-day 210 State Street, after tearing down the existing house on the lot. When the 1836 house burned to the ground in 1839, he rebuilt on the same lot the following year. Johnson lived in that house until his death in 1851. His wife lived at the house until her death in 1866, and the property remained in the family until 1976. The house still exists in the same location, and a wealth of archaeological artifacts remains on the property that date to the time of his occupation. Johnson's diary provides us with a detailed account of his business ventures and home life, and, combined with the existing house and associated landscape, provide us with a unique insight into the pre Civil War South.

The William Johnson property is significant under Criterion B for its association with William Johnson from 1836 to 1851. The property is also significant under Criterion A for its contribution to our understanding of the overall patterns of development in an antebellum Southern town, from 1836 to 1976 when Johnson's heirs sold the property to the Preservation Society of Endicott Hill. Under both criteria, the property gains its significance within the context of urban life, particularly as it relates to themes of ethnic heritage and social history. It retains integrity through association with William Johnson and his family; the location of the residence, which has remained uncompromised; and the feeling and setting of the land which still portrays the property's significance to the visitor. The property is also significant within the context of non-fiction literature for its association with Johnson's extensive diary. Johnson was unique for a black man in the antebellum South, given his free status, his commercial and social prominence within the free black, enslaved black, and white communities, and for his diary, which gives us a rich picture of that life.

Separate from its association with William Johnson, the property is also significant as a part of the historic town of Natchez, Mississippi. As the Natchez On-Top-of-the-Hill Historic District nomination states, "Natchez possesses one of the finest concentration of buildings in this style in the United States." The William Johnson House, built in Greek Revival style, is a contributing feature of this historic district under Criterion C and retains much of its original design, materials and workmanship.

Furthermore, the entire William Johnson property is significant under Criterion D for the wealth of information it contains about the physical characteristics of an antebellum home in Natchez, including its associated outbuildings and overall spatial characteristics. Foundations to ancillary buildings, remnants of walkways and borders of planting beds have been discovered through archaeological research. They contribute greatly to the overall feeling and setting of the property and provide the park with a wealth of information for interpretation of that story.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular
Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Single Family House

Primary Current Use: Historic Furnished Interior

Other Use/Function

Small Residential Landscape

Exhibit

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic

Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name

William Johnson House

State Street House

Type of Name

Current

Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1829	Purchased/Sold	Lot on which William Johnson House was constructed was sold to Harriet Battles, future mother-in-law of William Johnson.
CE 1840 - 1842	Built	William Johnson constructs a brick house, kitchen dependency, two brick privies, two in-ground cisterns, and several sheds on the property.
CE 1873	Land Transfer	Harriet Battles wills the William Johnson House property to her five granddaughters. The property was never legally owned by William Johnson.

William Johnson House
Natchez National Historical Park

CE 1897	Built	A new kitchen dependency is built, replacing the old one.
CE 1906	Purchased/Sold	The corner lot to the west of the William Johnson House is sold by the Johnson family to the Eastern Railway Company.
CE 1924	Land Transfer	The two surviving Johnson daughters deed their interest in the property to their nephew Dr. William Johnston and his wife Sallie.
CE 1976	Purchased/Sold	The Johnson heirs sell the William Johnson House to the Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill.
CE 1990	Land Transfer	The Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill sells the William Johnson House to the City of Natchez, who immediately donates the property and the adjacent McCallum House to the National Park Service.
CE 2003	Restored	NPS restores the William Johnson House and rehabilitates the adjacent McCallum House in order to open the site to the public as a museum.

Physical History:

To 1839

The William Johnson House (now 210 State Street) is located in what was part of the original Spanish 1790s town plan which consisted of a seven block north-south by five block east-west grid, with a parade ground between the town and the river and a central plaza. Harriet Battles, Johnson's mother-in-law acquired the property on which Johnson would build his house in 1829. A lot measuring 36' by 140' was deeded to Battles by her former owners, Gabriel and Elizabeth Tichenor. Archaeological evidence suggests that there were several houses located on the lot prior to the house that William Johnson built. (Ann Beha Associates)

In 1835 Johnson married Battle's daughter Ann and took charge of the State Street property although it was never legally in his name. In December 1836, Johnson moved Harriet Battles out of her house in order to have it torn down and erect a new one in its place. Evidence indicates that this earlier house was a frame house built on brick piers. In 1839 a fire destroyed this house. (Ann Beha Associates)

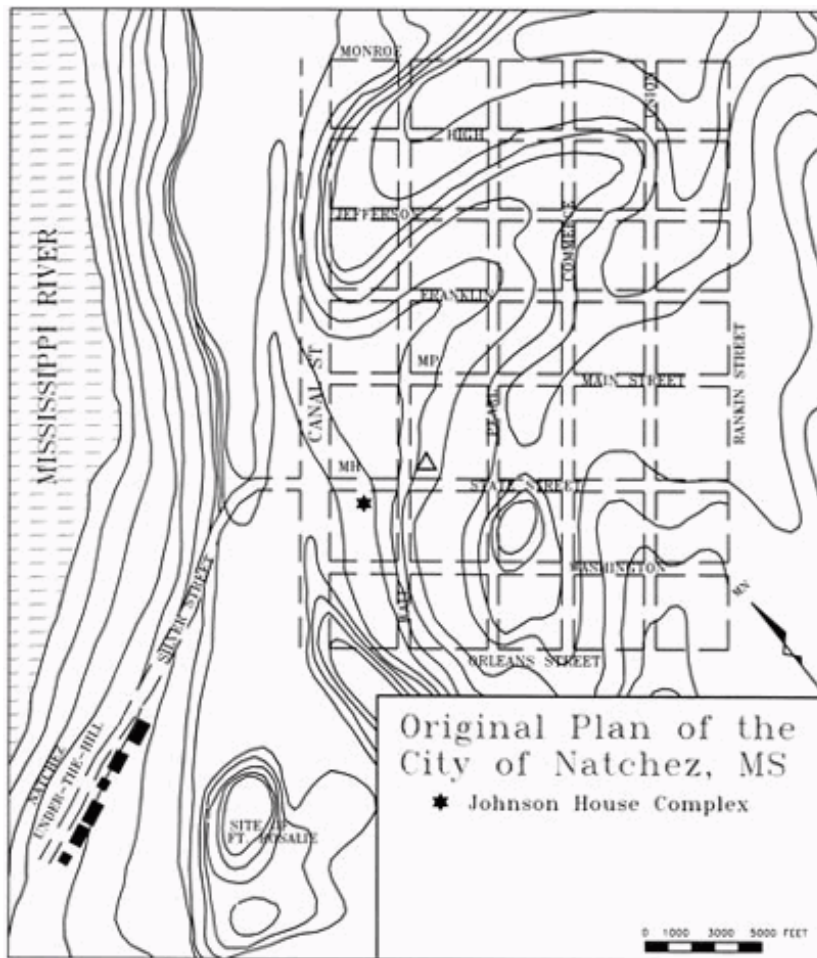


Figure 5: Original Plan of the City of Natchez with the location of the Johnson House indicated, from 1999 Atkinson Archeological Report.

1840-1851

Having collected \$2000 in insurance money for the burned house, Johnson began to construct a new house, and he had the lot surveyed in January 1840. Throughout 1840 and 1841, Johnson hired various laborers to build his house. He purchased salvaged bricks from several nearby buildings for use on his house. Johnson meticulously recorded progress on the State Street house as well as expenses, materials, and other happenings in his diary. Construction began on May 21, 1840, and by December of that year Johnson was finishing the interior of his house and had started to build the kitchen dependency as well. The original kitchen building was constructed of brick and located perpendicular to the main house. (Ann Beha and Associates)

In 1841, Johnson built a brick-lined privy with the help of a laborer near the back of the State Street lot. On February 20, 1841, Johnson bought four chinaberry trees for the property. The Chinaberry tree was a common landscape choice for urban Natchez lots. A wooden cistern

was moved onto the property and Johnson made a "Hen House" in early March just before the family moved to the State Street house on March 15, 1841. In July of that year, the first of three sheds was built in the back yard of the property. (Ann Beha and Associates)

In 1842, Johnson spent some time working on the State Street property grounds. In February he dug a cistern that was later plastered and covered with a brick arch top. Another below ground cistern was constructed shortly afterwards. By July, brick paving had been installed in front of the kitchen and a second privy had been built as well. Johnson noted in his diary that the lot had "few plants." A second brick gutter was dug on the property in October 1842. (Ann Beha and Associates)

By 1844, Johnson had installed fences and gates on his property. In March of that year, he built a cistern house, which was most likely a small latticed building similar to the extant cistern houses at Melrose. In late summer of that same year, a vegetable garden on the lot was harvested and then plowed for turnips. (Ann Beha and Associates)

After Johnson began acquiring swamp land south of Natchez in 1845, he did little work on the State Street house. Johnson recorded constructing a new frame building in 1850. This building was most likely attached to the southern wall of the original 1841 kitchen dependency, as illustrated on both the 1886 and 1892 Sanborn maps. A fence was constructed at the rear of the property to separate it from the Turner (Texada) property. (Ann Beha and Associates)

1852-1975

At the time of his death in 1851, Johnson was survived by his wife and nine children. In 1906, the family sold the lot to the west of 210 State Street to the Eastern Railway Company. Johnson had acquired the lot shortly before his death.

In 1897, the family built a new brick kitchen dependency which replaced the original 1841 kitchen. Sanborn Insurance Maps from 1886 and 1892 (Figure 6) show the original kitchen on the property. The next available Sanborn Insurance Map showing the Johnson House lot is from 1897. This map shows a new kitchen dependency "being built" on the Johnson property. See Figure 7. The new kitchen is parallel to the main house. This 1897 kitchen dependency is the current outbuilding located on the property. (Sanborn Insurance Maps, Natchez, Mississippi) Bottle garden edging containing bottles manufactured between 1869 and 1899 were located on the property during the 1994 archaeological investigation. (Atkinson)

In the early 1920s, the house was remodeled by Johnson's two surviving daughters. A two-story porch was added to the front of the house about this same time. Electricity, gas, and city water were introduced to the building during this remodeling effort. Dr. William R. Johnston built a garage across the rear of the property prior to his marriage in 1921. (Ann Beha and Associates)

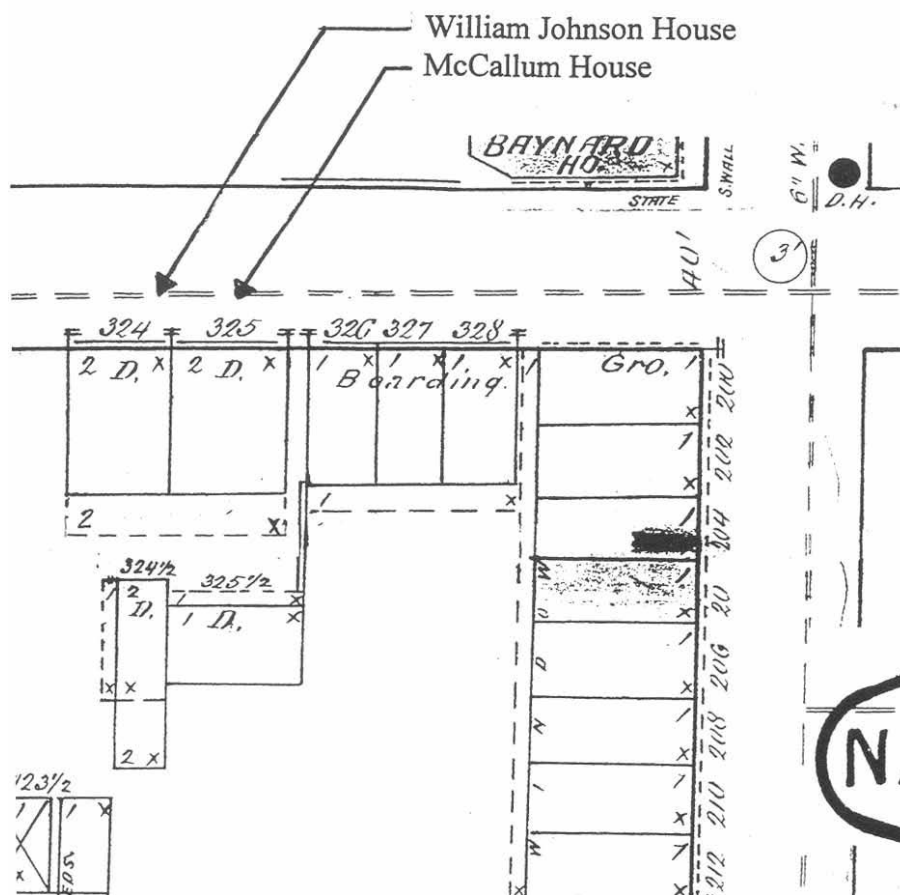


Figure 6: 1892 Sanborn Insurance Map showing the original kitchen dependency on the William Johnson House lot.

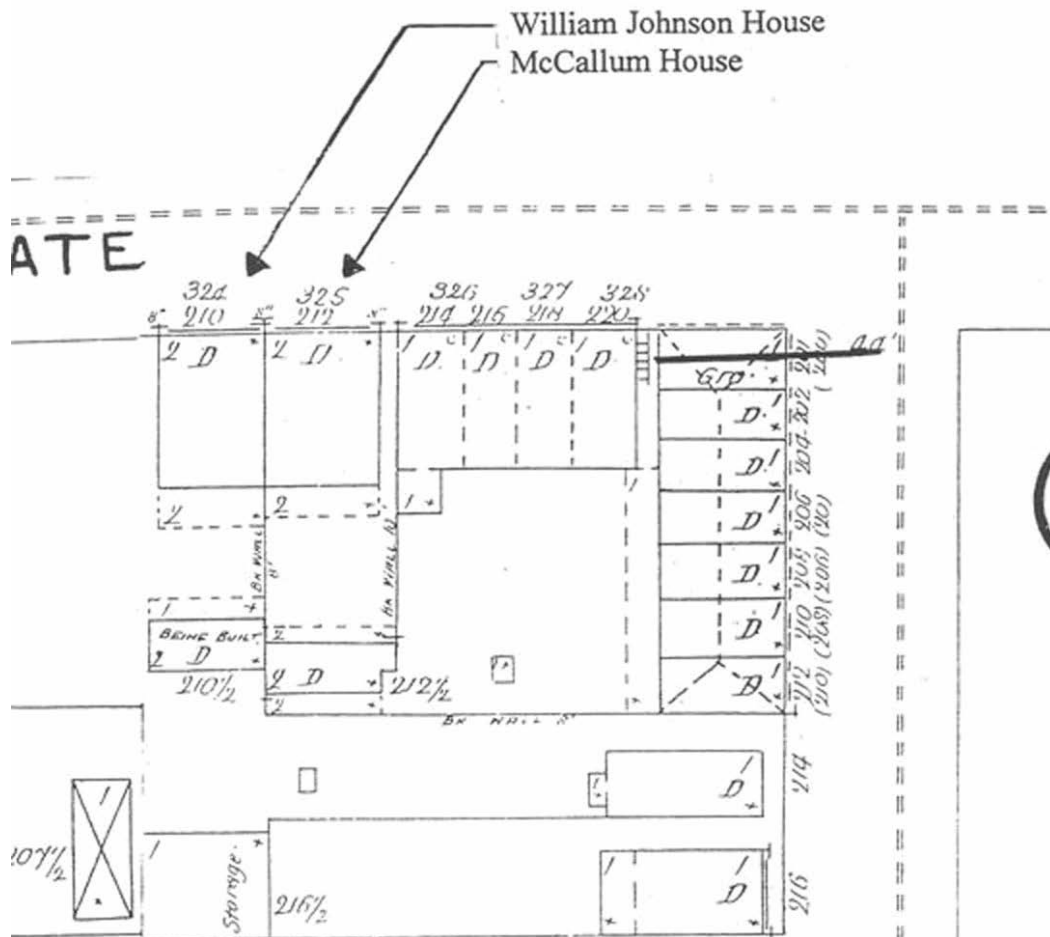


Figure 7: 1897 Sanborn Insurance Map showing the kitchen dependency as "being built."

1976-2003

In 1976, the Johnson heirs sold the property to the Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill. The Society commissioned archeology and performed initial stabilization work to prevent further deterioration. A Historic Structures Report for the house was completed in 1979 and restoration work was carried out thereafter. In 1990, the Society sold the Johnson House to the City of Natchez who then donated the property and the adjacent McCallum House to the National Park Service. NPS restored the deteriorated west wall of the house and reframed some first-story windows between 1990 and 1994. Major work also occurred on the 1897 kitchen dependency during this same time period. (Ann Beha and Associates) In 2002-2003, major restoration work was being undertaken on the William Johnson House and major renovation was being performed on the McCallum House in preparation for the site to be opened to the public as an interpretive site. Refer to Figures 8 and 9 for views of the site in January 2003.



Figure 8: Front facade of the William Johnson House in January 2003.



Figure 9: Side yard looking towards State Street with the west side elevation of the kitchen dependency in foreground.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The William Johnson House Complex retains much of its integrity as a contributing component to the historic downtown Natchez business district. Although the William Johnson period of occupation began in 1836 and ended with his death in 1851, his wife remained in the house until her death in 1866 and their family continued to live on the property until 1975. The 1897 kitchen dependency and other site structures are in keeping with the original house building design and materials, and contribute to the historic value of the property. Plant materials from William Johnson's era are non-extant, but some of the few plants remaining on site are likely to have been introduced by the Johnson family and are worth retaining. Of particular note is a large Crape Myrtle tree on State Street, which is believed to trace back to circa 1920.

There are numerous archaeological findings which provide clues to the daily activities of the Johnson family and support descriptions from William Johnson's diary. The remains of outbuildings, a cistern, and edging materials for pathways and garden beds have been located and documented. Therefore, it would be possible to accurately showcase certain elements from William Johnson's lifetime through site interpretation.

Landscape Characteristic:

Land Use

Work to stabilize the Johnson House and dependency buildings was in progress at the time the site inspection for this report was made. The adjacent McCallum House was deemed unstable and because of its shared wall with the Johnson House, strategic demolition was underway. As a result of these efforts, access to certain portions of the site was limited due to threats of collapse, scaffolding structures, piles of salvaged bricks, and storage of miscellaneous equipment belonging to contractors. The entire property was secured with a combination of existing wooden fencing, adjacent building walls, and orange plastic mesh construction zone fencing on the remaining open sides. See Figures 10 and 11.

There is much in the way of documentation for the land use from William Johnson's diary. Archaeological work has uncovered a wealth of artifacts to support these activities. Johnson's diary documents the construction of a hen house, a corn house, a wash house, a carriage house, two subterranean brick cisterns, a cistern house, three small sheds, a replacement shed, a "back building," and numerous animal sheds. Evidence of a privy, cistern, several types of outbuildings and edging materials for garden beds have been located on the property. See Figure 12.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 10: North front facade of the McCallum House during renovation (January 2003).



Figure 11: South rear facade of the McCallum House during renovation (January 2003).

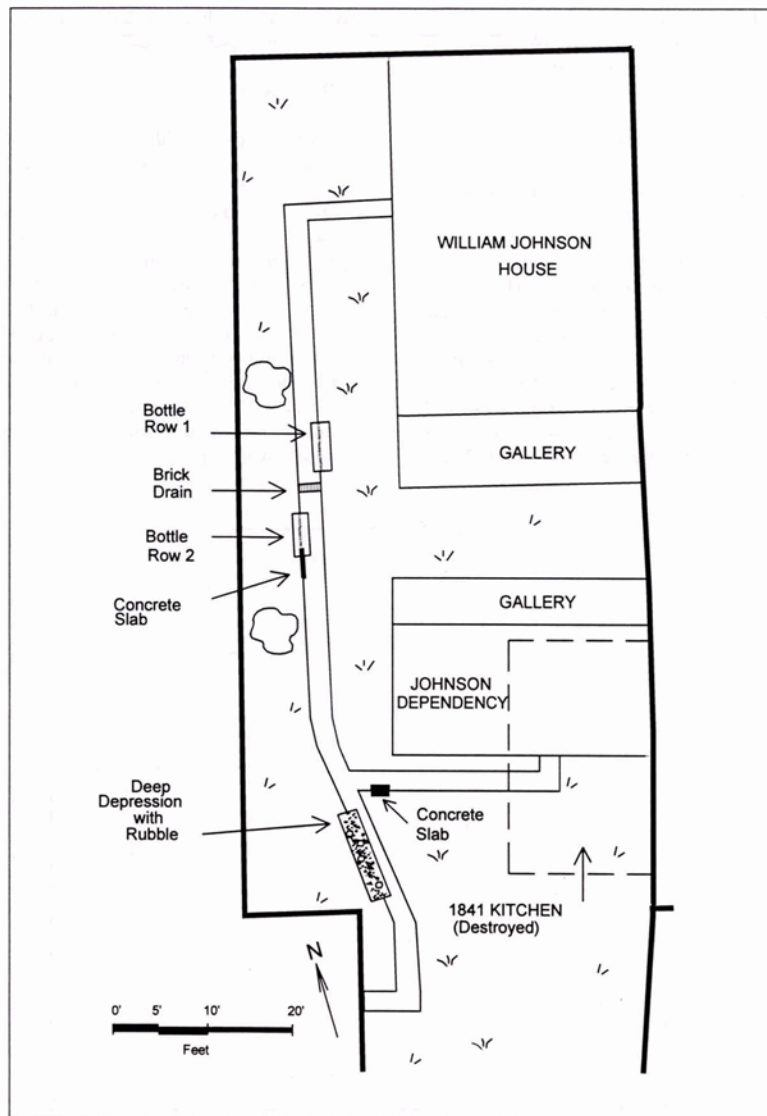


Figure 11. Location of the yard trench and associated features.

Figure 12: Archeology Site Map from the 1999 Atkinson Report.

Buildings And Structures

Remaining buildings of the William Johnson House Complex include the 1841 William Johnson House and the 1897 kitchen dependency. Also considered part of the complex is the adjacent McCallum House. The Johnson House is undergoing stabilization and has a refurbished two-story wooden porch structure and staircase attached to the rear of the building (Figure 13). A second-story porch structure for the dependency building was indicated on the survey plan dated October 2000, but has since been removed.

A brick retaining wall is located on the east property line and extends behind the dependency for approximately thirteen feet. See Figure 14. This wall has an average height of between six and seven feet and retains soil to create a level lawn behind the McCallum House. As part of the ongoing stabilization and demolition efforts, a portion of the retaining wall between the two yards has been dismantled and the earth behind it partially excavated to create a ramped access point up to the adjacent McCallum House property.

A painted wood fence with wide vertical planks follows the north property line from the Johnson House to the depot building along State Street. See Figures 15 and 16. Two cast concrete square piers flank the gateway opening at the northwest corner of the Johnson House and support a hinged, arched-top gate that opens into the yard from the street. This gate or one similar in design was present in the early twentieth century according to an interview with Mrs. Mary Louise Miller, who lived in the Johnson House circa World War I as a child. (Mary Louise Miller Interview) Also indicated on the survey is a brick opening to the basement just inside the gate, near the northwest corner of the Johnson House, which was not visible when this inventory was conducted. A series of concrete posts, approximately ten feet on center, occur along the west and southwest property lines.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: William Johnson House

Feature Identification Number: 94811

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 090307

LCS Structure Name: Johnson, William, House

LCS Structure Number: HS-01

Feature: William Johnson Kitchen Dependency

Feature Identification Number: 94814

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 090308

LCS Structure Name: Johnson, William, Kitchen Dependency

LCS Structure Number: HS-02

Feature: William Johnson House Garden Border Ruin

Feature Identification Number: 94813

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 091816

William Johnson House
Natchez National Historical Park

LCS Structure Name: Johnson, William, House Garden Border Ruin

LCS Structure Number: HS-40

Feature: William Johnson House Brick Walkway Ruin

Feature Identification Number: 94812

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 091815

LCS Structure Name: Johnson, William, House Brick Walkway Ruin

LCS Structure Number: HS-22

Feature: John McCallum House

Feature Identification Number: 94810

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 090309

LCS Structure Name: McCallum, John, House

LCS Structure Number: HS-03

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 13: Rear porch of the William Johnson House.



Figure 14: Retaining wall located in the east side yard.



Figure 15: Gate door, possibly dating to the early twentieth century.



Figure 16: Vertical board fence enclosing west side yard.

A new telephone service box and a new air conditioning unit on a concrete pad are located near the southeast corner of the dependency. An older gas meter is located on the west side of the Johnson House. Located just outside the west property line are four air conditioning units, two gas meters, an electric load center, and an electric meter that are all associated with the adjacent depot building. An electric transformer on a concrete pad, two electric service centers and a telephone pedestal are located just outside the southwest corner property line and are also associated with the depot building. A wooden utility pole is located just outside the north property line and has overhead electric power lines connecting to another utility pole across State Street. Overhead cable and telephone lines, as well as additional electric lines, connect to other utility poles along State Street in front of the Johnson House. A water meter is located in the sidewalk just outside the fence and a water hydrant is located just inside the fence. A sewer/drain vent is located at the rear of the the McCallum House. Utility service to the McCallum House on the east side of the building has been abandoned.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 17: Overhead utilities.

Vegetation

The site contains very little in the way of plant material. A large Crape Myrtle tree, Figure 18, is present on State Street just outside the fence gate, growing in a 3' x 4.5' (144 SF) planting strip at the back of the curb in a concrete sidewalk zone. Inside the fenced yard, running parallel along the side of the depot building, are several clumps of Canna Lilies and one fig clump, see Figure 19. This fig clump, or an ancestor to it has been in this location since at least the 1920s if not earlier. (Mary Louise Miller interview) Near the corner of the dependency building is a rather dense 12" twin-trunk Devilwood (*Osmanthus americanus*), Figure 20. This 'tree' probably started out as a shrub and has matured to a much larger form. At the time of the site visit/assessment this plant was loaded with dark fruit and attracted numerous birds. Beyond the Devilwood is a 12" Elm tree (*Ulmus americana*), and at the very back of the property are two Paper Mulberry trees with 20" and 24" caliper trunks, seen in Figure 21. The Devilwood and Elm trees are shown just outside the west side property boundary, the two Mulberry trees are either just inside or on the south property line. The balance of open space is lawn in poor condition.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18: Crape Myrtle tree on State Street.



Figure 19: Canna Lilies and fig clump in west side yard.



Figure 20: Devilwood in southwest rear yard.



Figure 21: Paper Mulberry trees in rear yard.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 01/08/2003

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The buildings are currently undergoing a major renovation/rehabilitation and consequently what remains of the cultural landscape is severely disturbed.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/11/2005

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

House renovations are complete and potential disturbance from these operations has stopped.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/09/2011

Impacts

Type of Impact: Operations On Site

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 0.00

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

No LCS Structure Stabilization Costs exist.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Restoration

Approved Treatment Document: Historic Structure Report

Document Date: 06/30/1996

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The treatment recommendations for the Johnson Complex include restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation. The GMP and RMP list these as well, but the HSR provides the most detail.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 06/30/1996

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

The date for the cost estimates is listed as 26 August 1996 for all LCS entries except the Kitchen Dependency, which is 09 October 1996:

William Johnson House - \$1,278,800
Kitchen Dependency - \$23,000
House Garden Border Ruin - \$2,300
House Brick Walkway Ruin - \$5,750
John McCallum House - \$430,000

Separate cost estimates exist in the HSR produced by Ann Beha Associates. These Class C costs total \$262,699 for Johnson House repair, and \$29,071 for the Kitchen Dependency totaling \$291,770.

Additional Class B cost estimates exist for the property in PMIS entry 22269 in the amount of \$758117.

No approved landscape treatment costs exist.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author:	Ann Beha Associates
Citation Title:	William Johnson House Historic Structure Report
Year of Publication:	1996
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	SERO
Citation Author:	Koch and Wilson Architects
Citation Title:	Restoration of the William Johnson House Phase 1: 210 State Street for the Preservation Society of Elicott Hill
Year of Publication:	1979
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Melrose Estate, NATC
Citation Author:	Edwin Adams Davis and William Ransom Hogan
Citation Title:	The Barber of Natchez
Year of Publication:	1992
Citation Publisher:	Louisiana State University Press
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	SERO
Citation Author:	Thomas J. Padgett
Citation Title:	Excavations at the William Johnson House
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	SERO

Citation Author:	James R. Atkinson
Citation Title:	William Johnson House Complex Archeological Excavations, Natchez National Historical Park
Year of Publication:	1999
Citation Publisher:	SEAC
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	Melrose Estate, NATC
Citation Title:	Land Use History William Johnson House, Natchez National Historical Park
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Melrose Estate, NATC
Citation Title:	William Johnson House
Source Name:	HABS
Citation Title:	William Johnson House and Johnson Dependency Draft Report
Source Name:	HABS
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Melrose Estate, NATC
Citation Author:	Carol Petravage
Citation Title:	William Johnson House Historic Furnishing Report
Year of Publication:	1999
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	Melrose Estate, NATC

Citation Author: William Ranson Hogan and Edwin Adams Davis, eds.
Citation Title: William Johnson's Natchez: The Ante Bellum Diary of a Free Negro
Citation Publisher: Louisiana State University Press
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Louisiana State University

Citation Author: Building Conservation Technology, Inc.
Citation Title: Historic Structures Report, William Johnson House
Year of Publication: 1979
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: NATC

Supplemental Information

Title: Mary Louise Miller Interview

Description: "Johnson House Furnishings Based on an Interview with Mrs. Mary Louise Miller" by Carol Petravage and Kathleen McClain Jenkins, February 6, 1996. Mrs. Miller moved into the William Johnson House circa World War I as a small child to live with her Aunt Sallie who was married to William Johnson's grandson, Dr. William Johnston.

Plan: Johnson House grounds, circa 1920s (see Figure 24: Johnson Site Plan ca. 1920s for locations.)

A: A wooden fence encircled the yard area, with a gate in the front where one is now.

B: A water hydrant was located on the southwest corner of the main house. Water was drawn into white granite wear pitchers.

C: A water hydrant was located on the southwest corner of the kitchen dependency.

D: A cistern with hand pump was centrally located between the main house and the kitchen dependency.

E: Dr. Johnston's garage ran across the back of the property, with an entrance on the south end. He had a car prior to his marriage to Sallie Feltus. Early on, he kept his horse Monetta across the street.

F: The boys' workshop was located on the north side of the rear of the property. Here Alphonse et al. would repair violins, mandolins, guitars, etc. It had a window, bench, chairs - a tinker's shop. Later on they also worked on clocks and scissors.

G: Chicken coops were located at the back of the property. Ducks were also kept. Cows from the plantation were brought into town and kept in the yard if they were sick or needed watching. Also Dr. Johnston let his pointer and setter dogs run here.

H: A privy was located almost in the back corner of the property. It had two sides for men and women, with women having the larger (north) side, and two holes on each side (none lower for children).

I: A pecan tree stood in the center of the back part of the property. The yard also held white and red camellias, red japonicas, altheas, fig trees, and sweet olive. There were no vegetables grown here, as they were brought in from the plantation (Peachland).

J: Woodpile.

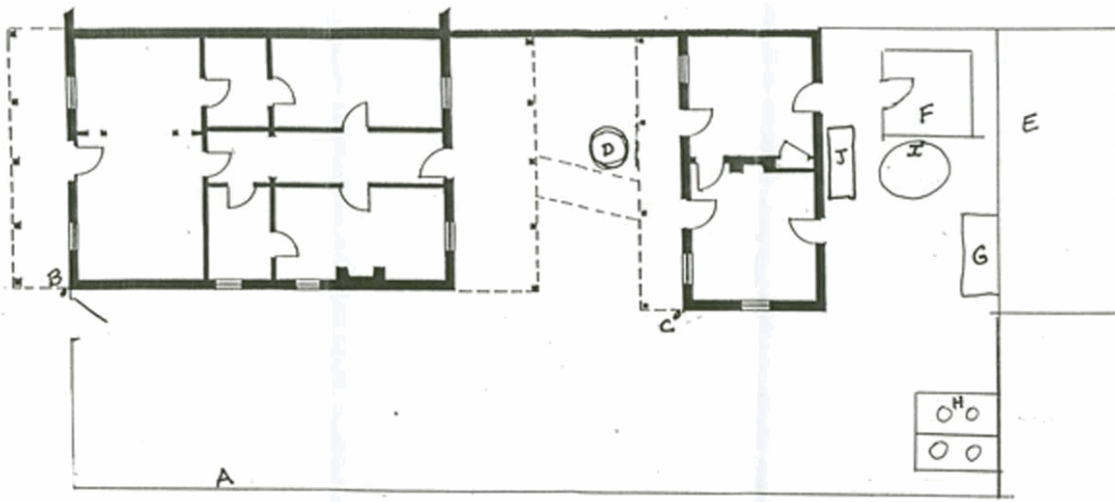


Figure 21: Johnson Site Plan ca. 1920s.

Title: Supplemental Treatment Options/Ideas

Description: The following supplemental Treatment Options/Ideas are beyond the scope of the CLI, but while completing the work, Anne Wilfer, Project Landscape Architect for The Jaeger Company, developed some ideas for interpretation:

Ghosting (of documented features):

- 1-Original dependency building - footprint
- 2-Cistern - outline
- 3-Garden beds - edged with brick
- 4-Yard Trench

Exterior Interpretation (of existing elements):

- 1-Brick walls
- 2-Wooden fence and gate
- 3-Porch connected to dependency from second floor of house
- 4-Crape Myrtle on State Street

Interior Interpretation:

- 1-Exposed garden bed edging through floor of dependency building
- 2-Displays of artifacts found on site
- 3-Diary with pages that turn to correspond with the day/week's date

Other suggestions:

- 1-Leave a portion of the shared wall (with McCallum House) open -glass? Install an elevator on the exterior so that all floors can be viewed and are ADA accessible.
- 2-Incorporate materials like the found artifacts in reconstructed elements, such as the walks with embedded marbles, or tools like those that would have been found on site.
- 3-Replant Chinaberry Trees and other plants known to have existed on site.
- 4-Have a few live animals on site to provide a feeling of daily life of the original occupants.