

House at 313 Market Street
Natchez, Mississippi.

Adams Co.

HABS No. 17 - 11 HABS
MISS
1-NATCH
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 17.

Historic American Buildings Survey
A. Hays Town, District Officer
Standard Life Building
Jackson, Mississippi

APPENDIX
FOLLOWING...

PARRISH HOUSE, (HOME OF SAN SALVADOR)
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Owner (Or Custodian) F. J. PARRISH ESTATE

Date of Erection

1786

Architect

Builder

Present Condition

Poor

Number of Stories

Three

Materials of Construction

Foundation

Wood and Brick

Floors

Exterior Walls

First floor, Brick
Second and Third floor, Frame Siding

Interior Walls

Roof

Composition Pitched roof

Other Existing Records

Additional Data

This house is of provincial Spanish architectural design. Built by order of the Spanish King, for 4 selected priest who came to teach the English speaking people catholicism.

DW 8/4/37

H O U S E A T 313 M A R K E T S T R E E T

Natchez Adams County Mississippi.

Market Street was laid out prior to 1787 and extends the length of one block only. On the corner, where it intersects with Pearl Street, once stood the Spanish Market. Number three thirteen is, without doubt, one of the oldest houses in Natchez, erected in all probability about 1788, for its story is linked with the first known church in this area. This early Roman Catholic Church was established by order of the Spanish King, according to the "Archives of the Royal Treasury of the Island of Cuba." The date of the King's order was January 30, 1787, and the priests appointed to the Natchez parish were the Reverend Messrs. William Savage, Michael Lamport, Gregory White and Constantine MacKenna, who, as their names indicate, were of Irish blood. A document copied by Don Jose del Rosario Naltes, Honorary Provincial Intendant, and General Custodian of the Archives of Cuba, states: "It was therein declared, among the other things, to be the will of His Majesty that parochial stations of Irish priests should be established in Natchez and such other places in the said province as might be deemed suitable, for the purpose of attracting the English and American settlers, their children, and families to our religion." .These priests, with the exception of Father Lamport, arrived in 1787, and an entry made on January 19, 1789 shows Father William Savage as "Priest in charge of the parish of Holy Saviour of Natchez." It was he who evidently built the old house on Market Street.

Referring to an early record written in Spanish and recorded in the second American book, a document, when translated, proves to be a petition to his Excellency, the Governor, for the land adjoining and nearby that on which the "Curial House" now stands. The good father adds in a most respectful and humble manner that he greatly needs a garden and lands on which to erect other buildings. It is signed Don Francisco Lennan, Dec. 1, 1794. Soon after we find the land granted as requested, with the proviso that it be used only for such purposes designated. The grant, however, was a personal one, conferring on the priest the right of absolute possession with one condition, that he pay a small sum regularly for the improvement or up-keep of the city of Natchez.

.By this it is seen that Father Lennan succeeded the former pastor, Reverend William Savage, as "Presbytero cura de esta parroquia de San Salvador." That he left with the Spanish troops seems probable, since the first deed referred to was made on the day of the evacuation. While the parish house was his personal property, the lands whereon the church and Spanish Government buildings stood automatically became the property of "Uncle Sam."

.The house is now owned by the F. J. Arrighi estate.

Compiled from data of
Stuart Cuthbertson
Mrs. Edith Wyatt Moore

HOUSE AT 313 MARKET STREET

Natchez Adams County Mississippi

The old Catholic Priest's Presbytery is almost entirely different from other Spanish examples in Mississippi, although there is a likeness in woodwork details and in construction methods. The house is a city residence type, three stories high and built directly on the banquette line of a narrow street one block long. At the time of its erection there was a Spanish market at the foot of the street, and no doubt many buildings of similar design on either side.

.The lower story, typical of the time, is red clay brick; the other two stories are covered with cypress beaded siding. In the center of the second story on the street facade is a beautiful doorway with an elliptical fan light surmounted by a dentiled raked cornice^{and} supported by engaged fluted pilasters. At present the door appears to open into mid-air with a wood railing as a safety feature, but there is little doubt that the door once entered onto a balcony with a delicate hand-wrought-iron railing.

.On each side of the doorway are large wood 22-light windows with louver blinds. (The blinds are missing on one of the windows). The windows of this story do not line with the openings below -- but do line with the shuttered windows above, the center window of the third story lining with the doorway. These windows have twenty lights.

.The wood cornice with wood low bracket mutules is splendid in detail and execution. The roof, now metal shingles, was originally slate. All exterior wood-work is cypress.

The rear elevation from the court yard, while the many changes have altered the original appearance, is more typically Spanish Colonial. The doorway of the third story of this elevation is similar to the front balcony door, but much broader, and very similar to the details of the Spanish Tavern or Gilreath's Hill.

.The court yards originally extended through to the alley, and was surrounded by a nine foot high brick wall; while no evidence remains, the yard was probably a garden of semi-tropical shrubbery and flowers. The typical underground brick cistern still remains as it was originally built. .The house was very likely painted white and the blinds a dark green. This was typical of the original Spanish types.

.The interior of the house has been altered many times, and the exact original plan would be hard to determine. However, the original mantels and much of the interior detailed woodwork remains. The floors are wood and walls all plastered. The wainscots, mantels, doors, cornices and interior trim are cypress.

ADDENDUM TO:
311-313 MARKET STREET (PARISH HOUSE)
Natchez
Adams County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-17-11

HABS
MISS
1-NATCH,
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240