

Railroad Terminal
200 Broadway Street
Natchez
Adams County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-195

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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RAILROAD TERMINAL

HABS NO. MS-195

Location: 200 Broadway Street, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Present Owner: City of Natchez (Mayor and Board of Aldermen), City Hall, Natchez.

Present Use: The Side Track Restaurant, Restaurant and Lounge.

Significance: The Natchez Passenger Terminal is a locally valuable example of picturesque architectural styles popular at the end of the nineteenth century. When the station was converted into a restaurant in 1973, the terminal became a highly visible and popular example of adaptive use.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1907
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners:

Natchez Deed Book 5-J, 20 June 1945, page 177 registers the transfer of ownership to the City of Natchez from the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company. "All that tract of land extending 226 feet northwardly from the extension of the northerly line of Franklin Street and extending westwardly from Broadway Street 110 feet being rectangular in shape, and being all the land lying between the city park known as "The Bluffs" on the west and south, Broadway Street on the east and lands otherwise acquired by the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railraod on the north." One dollar and other valuable considerations were noted.
4. Original plans and construction: Although no longer serving its original function, the railroad terminal retains much of its original plan and fabric. The main block consists of a waiting room converted into dining space which is flanked by a gift shop on the south and a split-level area on the north, which originally served as offices.
5. Alterations and additions: When the railroad terminal was adapted to become a restaurant in 1972, a small kitchen was attached to the back, or west elevation. Although there was no major spacial alteration to the interior, the addition of new fixtures has necessarily changed the interior appearance.

B. Historical Context:

On October 16, 1906, the Mississippi Railroad Commission ordered the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad, the Mississippi Central Railroad and the Natchez Southern Railroad to build "a union depot in the city of Natchez after plans approved by this commission, same to be completed within six months from this date" (Eleventh Biennial Report of the Mississippi Railroad Commission, 1905-7).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Railroad Terminal is a mixture of English, Swiss and Mediterranean architectural styles. This combination adds variety and interest to the full range of Natchez architecture.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The one-story, rectangular building measures 110' by 24', and numbers 6 bays.
2. Foundations: Brick
3. Wall construction: Walls are constructed of rough brick laid in seven course common bond and finished with a veneer of grey pressed brick.
4. Structural system: The walls are load bearing.
5. Porches: A narrow covered promenade extends the full length of the front elevation. A porte-cochere is attached to the southwest side of the building.
6. Chimneys: There is one small stove chimney in brick.
7. Openings: The glazed and paneled doors are surrounded by molded brick architraves. The windows are composed of six over one glazing.
8. Roof: The gabled roof is covered with red tile. The roof has a slight kick at the eaves, which are treated with a plain, unsawn verge-board. There are two small dormers on the main facade.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: A large waiting room, now converted into a dining room, occupies the middle of the building and is flanked by an office on the southwest (currently used as a gift shop), and

a split-level dining area on the north. Two small rooms, which currently contain the kitchen, are attached to the northwestern elevation.

2. Flooring: Wood and terrazzo flooring are used throughout/
 3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling are of plaster. There is a narrow, beaded wainscoting.
 4. Doors: The doors are glazed and paneled
 5. Decorative features: Interior freestanding supports are enclosed in paneled casings.
- D. Site: The Natchez Railroad Terminal, which faces southeast, is located on a paved plaza, criss-crossed with numerous tracks.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File.
Adams County Depot

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project coordinated by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Elbert R. Hilliard, Director. Data compiled by William C. Allen, Architectural Historian. November 1974.

Edited by Marion K Schlefer, Historic American Buildings Survey,
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