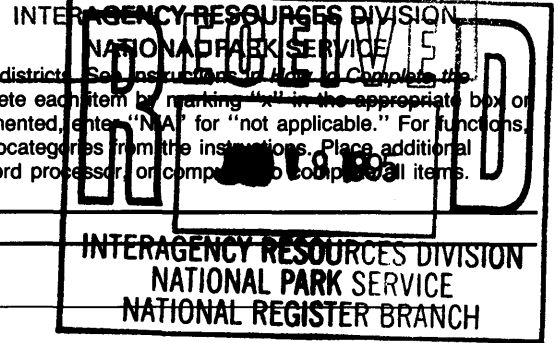


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

001 - 3 1994

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Cook, Herman Albert House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 515 West Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Houma N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Terrebonne code 109 zip code 70360

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

<sup>for</sup> Signature of the Keeper M. J. M. Way Date of Action 2/24/95

Cook, Herman Albert House  
Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Bungalow

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other brick

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cook, Herman Albert House  
Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property .8 acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5	7	1	9	9	6	0	3	2	7	6	1	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

3 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1994

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Carroll J. and Sandra F. Babin

street & number 515 West Main Street telephone (504) 876-1637

city or town Houma state Louisiana zip code 70360

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

**Period of Significance**

1914-1936

**Significant Dates**

1914-1936

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Herman Albert Cook

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

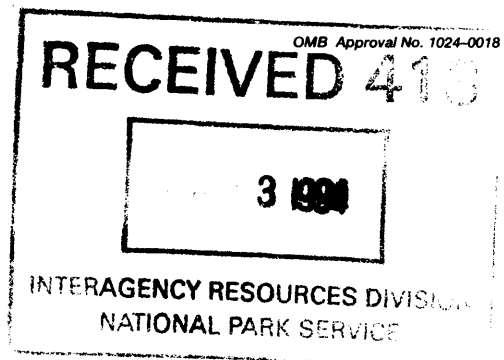
\_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cook, Herman Albert House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Herman Albert Cook House (1914) is a two-story residence located on the west side of the Terrebonne Parish city of Houma. Partly hidden from view by vegetation, the house faces Bayou Terrebonne and Houma's busy West Main Street. Stylistically, the dwelling is a restrained frame version of the Queen Anne Revival to which prominent bungalow style elements in masonry were added at a relatively early date (see below). Despite this alteration, the home remains eligible for National Register listing.

The Cook Home's Queen Anne features include cross gable massing which results in a slightly asymmetrical footprint and two projecting first floor bays. The home's wraparound gallery was altered and enlarged some time prior to 1924 (see below). As originally constructed, this gallery culminated in a slightly projecting entrance pavilion with its own gabled roof. This roof was supported by prominent wooden posts rising from brick pier bases. Although the pavilion was altered during the remodeling, a historic photograph (copy attached) indicates that several decorative elements dating to before the remodeling survive on the exterior. These include a simple bargeboard and a large rectangular vent in the building's front gable, prominent overhanging eaves featuring conspicuous molded cornices, an Eastlake front door, and shutters flanking the home's original windows.

Although the exact date of the remodeling is not known, Sanborn fire insurance maps show the alterations to be in place by 1924. The following changes were part of this remodeling:

- 1) the enclosure of the wraparound gallery. This was accomplished by replacing the gallery's original wooden posts and balustrade by a solid brick balustrade with thick piers rising to the gallery roof. The spaces between the balustrade, piers, and roof were then glazed with a series of subdivided windows.
- 2) the extension of the gallery across the remainder of the facade. This addition also features a solid brick balustrade and thick brick piers. As part of this construction, the columns supporting the entrance pavilion's gable were removed and the gable itself was replaced. The newer gable lacks the prominent cornice of the original.
- 3) construction of a carport connected to the newly extended gallery. Also in the bungalow style, the carport features rear sliding doors which close off the area from the side yard behind it.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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Cook, Herman Albert House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

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- 4) the replacement of the home's original chimney with one built in brick matching the gallery's solid balustrade.

The dwelling's interior survives with its original decorative cypress woodwork virtually intact. It includes two sets of paneled pocket doors, wainscot in several areas, built-in cabinets with glass doors used as room dividers between the entrance/stair hall and parlor, one paneled mantel with mirrored overmantel, a beamed ceiling in the dining room, and an elaborate staircase. It features an original gate on its lower landing, ball drops hanging from beneath the middle landing, and a glazed door at the middle landing. This door allows the second floor to be closed off from the space below. The five room plan of the first floor is arranged with two rooms to the right of the above mentioned hall, two rooms and a bathroom to the left of the hall, and a kitchen connected to the rear of the house by another narrow hallway. The second floor also consists of five rooms. Three original bedrooms and a bath are found beneath the projecting cross gables. In addition, a glazed sun room has been added between two of the second floor's projecting rooms. It is connected to the rear yard by an outside stair. The home also has a basement, which is unusual in Louisiana.

In addition to the early remodeling and sun room addition mentioned above, the Cook House has received the following alterations:

- 1) the modernization of the home's kitchen and two bathrooms,
- 2) the addition of a small breakfast room attached to the kitchen and the enclosure of a small rear porch off the kitchen, and
- 3) the installation of an outdoor toilet within a shed attached to a rear corner of the home.

The later changes have had no effect upon the Cook Home's historic facade. Although the home's bungalow style facelift altered the appearance of the facade's first level (while leaving the second story unchanged), this remodeling was completed by Herman Cook during the historic period. Thus, there is no doubt that Cook would easily recognize his former home should he return to Houma today. As the only surviving structure associated with Cook, the Herman Albert Cook House is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cook, Herman Albert, House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA  
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ORIGINAL APPEARANCE OF COOK HOUSE

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Cook, Herman Albert House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

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The Herman Albert Cook House is locally significant under Criterion B, property associated with the life of a significant person, because it is the home and only surviving building associated with Cook, a major force in an important industry in Houma. Cook's large sawmill was a strong contributing factor to Houma's economy from well before he and his partner purchased the business in 1913 until exhaustion of the timber supply around 1924. The house was Cook's residence from its construction in 1914 until his death in 1936.

Houma originally developed as a sugar processing and shipping center for Terrebonne Parish in the nineteenth century. However, in the early twentieth century the local sugar economy experienced a downturn caused by disease, floods, and inadequate tariffs. After this downturn, the town's economy was sustained by a well established seafood industry and the St. Louis Cypress sawmill (to become the Houma Cypress Company in 1913). Although little has been recorded concerning the history of the lumber industry in Houma and Terrebonne Parish, it undoubtedly paralleled the overall course of lumbering in southern Louisiana (i.e., general prosperity before about 1920 followed by decline in that decade as the available timber supply dwindled). It should be noted that in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Louisiana was among the nation's top lumber producers, and the lumber industry was a major factor in local economies.

Herman Albert Cook was born in Wisconsin. He came to Napoleonville, Louisiana in 1904 and found employment as plant foreman of the Napoleonville Cypress Company. His brother-in-law, Emile Sundberry, was president of this concern. Later Cook became superintendent of the Owl Bayou Cypress Company. In 1913 Cook and his nephew, Oscar Sundberry, purchased Houma's St. Louis Cypress Company plant, changing its name to the Houma Cypress Company. Cook supervised the production portion of the business while Sundberry handled office operations. The size and importance of the mill are reflected in available Sanborn fire insurance maps for 1907 and 1912, which show a complex encompassing some 30 acres. Although the 1912 map was produced a year before Cook and Sundberry assumed control of the lumber mill, it can be taken as an accurate representation of the facility during the early years of the Cook/Sundberry partnership. Buildings and equipment making up the West Main Street complex in 1912 included a large sawmill with a single band saw (see attached historic photo), shingle and lathe mill, planing mill, all steel boiler house, fuel house, steam dry kilns and kiln unloading shed, a 24,000 gallon water tank atop a 75 foot high steel tower, carpenter shop, sorter shed, dressed lumber shed, three other lumber sheds, shipping office, timber dock, and metal shavings conveyor. In addition, a series of plank walkways, tramways, and elevated platforms connected over 30 large stacks

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Continuation Sheet**

Cook, Herman Albert House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA  
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of lumber, located at the rear of the large reservation, with the rest of the plant. A log slip connected the mill with nearby Bayou Terrebonne. Ninety percent of the mill's 65,000 board feet daily capacity was shipped by rail to northern buyers.

Although there are no surviving employment records for the sawmill, it is clear that a concern of this size had to have had a considerable impact on the Houma economy. By way of comparison, it is known that the huge Lyon mill at Garyville in St. John the Baptist Parish employed about 900 people when it was producing 225,000 board feet daily. As noted above, the Houma Cypress Company mill had a 65,000 board feet daily capacity. Even if this capacity was seldom reached, the mill was a major employer in a community the size of Houma (population of roughly 4600, per 1912 Sanborn map).

As noted previously, the decline of the lumber industry in Houma paralleled that in the state as a whole as the timber played out. Both the 1924 and 1931 Sanborn maps described the Houma Cypress Company sawmill as "vacant and dilapidated" and the boiler and dry kiln as abandoned. According to local sources, the company built a smaller mill to process cut-over timber after near exhaustion of the supply forced the large mill to close. Known as the Houma-Terrebonne Lumber Company, the small mill survived only until 1931. However, the planing mill operated for twenty years after the closure of the original sawmill, and a lumber yard associated with the concern operated until 1972 under the name Home Building Supply Company. Sundberry's heirs eventually purchased the Cook family's interest in the business.

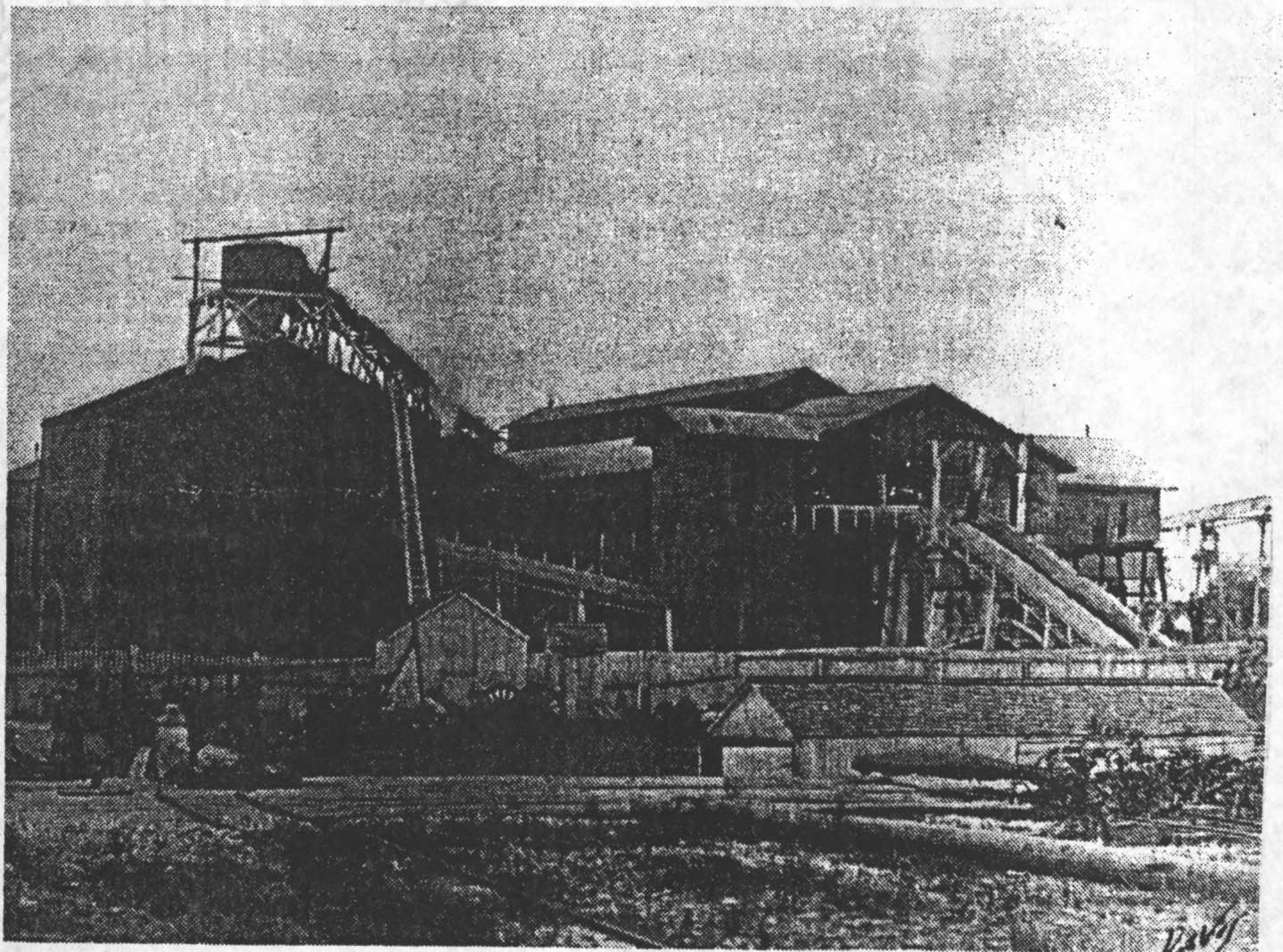
Sadly, only one property associated with Herman Cook survives in Houma. The sawmill would be the most representative building; however, it was dismantled and all of its machinery and salvageable materials were sold. A shopping center now stands on the site. As an aside, the home built by Oscar Sundberry for his family, which stood next door to the Cook House, has also been lost. Herman Cook's residence, which he built upon the occasion of his marriage in 1914, is the only surviving building associated with this locally important lumberman.

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Cook, Herman Albert House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

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Cook, Herman Albert House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

"H. A. Cook Succumbs After Long Illness," Houma Courier, August 30, 1936, page 1.

Historic photographs of Herman Albert Cook House, copies in National Register file.

Information supplied to owner by Herman Hattaway, grandson of Herman Albert Cook.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1907, 1912, 1924, 1931.

Wurzlow, Helen. I Dug Up Houma Terrebonne, Vol. 5, n.p., 1985, Chapter XXX, pp. 108-110. Contains a historic photo of the mill.

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**Boundary Description**

Legal property description: a certain parcel of ground in that portion of the City of Houma, Louisiana, known as "Subdivision of the Parr Property" and better known and designated on a plan of said subdivision as Lots 1 & 2 of Block 26.

**Boundary Justification**

Boundaries follow property lines.