

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 25 1980
DATE ENTERED MAY 8 1980

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

Cox-Uithoven House

AND/OR COMMON

Cedar Ridge Plantation, Cox House, Dutch Village, The Mennonite Place

2 LOCATION

N of Columbus

STREET & NUMBER

Route 5, Box 69, Old Aberdeen Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Mississippi

VICINITY OF

CODE
28

COUNTY
Lowndes

CODE
087

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert J. Raymond, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 281-F

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Second Avenue North

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

March 7-11, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

The Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located approximately five miles north of Columbus, Mississippi, on an old dirt road to Aberdeen, Cedar Ridge is a massive two-story Greek Revival mansion built around 1852. Resting on a foundation of brick piers, it is constructed primarily of mortise and tenon frame. The house is covered by clapboard siding and has a low-pitched metal hip-roof. Occupying the central three bays of the five-bay (west elevation) facade is a two-story flat-roof portico with continuous paneled square columns of giant order, which support a full well-proportioned entablature with dentiled cornice. The entablature is carried around the building, unifying the design of the structure. The entrance is contained in a pilastered frontispiece and incorporates casement side lights and transom, which open for increased ventilation of the central hall. A one-bay balcony is centered over the main entrance, which is flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows.

Situated along the north elevation of the house is a one-story extension containing two connecting rooms, each with a corner fireplace, which serve as anterooms for the two major rooms on the north side of the central stair hall. Balancing this extension is a one-story open porch supported by five octagonal columns along the south elevation. A two-story three-bay back stair hall connects the main block of the house to a one-story hip-roof kitchen wing, which contains a dining area in the half nearest the house, a kitchen area at the back, and a central chimney with fireplace openings serving both rooms. A small storage room is attached to either side of the kitchen. Porches, reached by means of french doors, flank the diningroom.

With the exception of the projecting rear pavilion containing the back stairway, the main block of Cedar Ridge's interior is of the standard four-rooms-with-central-hall plan. A straight-run stairway with mahogany rail and turned balusters (now in storage) parallels the south wall of the central hallway. Ceilings on the first floor are 13½ feet high. The two rooms to the south of the main stair hall, apparently intended to be parlors, are separated by sliding pocket doors and were originally equipped with plaster ceiling medallions in a radiating ornamental-leaf design, one of which remains intact. Interior door and window surrounds are in the Greek battered form, and several rooms have jib doors which open onto side porches. Cedar Ridge's twelve original mantel-pieces remain in place; half are embellished with battered Greek motifs and half are of simpler pilastered design. The mantel in the front parlor has its original faux marbre treatment simulating gold-veined black marble. The rear hallway contains a dogleg stairway with pine-paneled stairwell and features faux bois painting in alternating light and dark wood grains.

Of the numerous original outbuildings on the property, only one remains. Located about 120-feet north of the plantation house, the building was originally the plantation smokehouse but was later used as a commissary. Foundations of what are believed to be two slaves cabins, a cook's house, a barn, and a carriage house are still visible on the property

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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. 1852 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James S. Lull (?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cedar Ridge is significant primarily as an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style as it was interpreted in northeastern Mississippi. It is important as well for its peculiar location--on the plantation rather than in town, as was the local custom--and for its unique floor plan and detailing.

The house is located on property purchased by William S. Cox in 1847 (Lowndes Co., Miss., Deed Book 6:393). By 1852 Cox had amassed a plantation sizable enough to warrant a house of generous proportions; it is assumed, therefore, that he began construction on his residence at about that time. During the period of Cedar Ridge's construction it was fashionable among well-to-do planters in the Columbus area to build their residences in town rather than on their isolated plantations. As a result there are many more plantation-type houses today within the city of Columbus than on the sites of suburban and rural plantations. Cedar Ridge, however, like neighboring Waverly, a National Historic Landmark, was constructed on the plantation.

The design of Cedar Ridge is possibly attributable to Vermont-born architect James S. Lull since the residence bears a marked resemblance to three other of his buildings; the Lowndes County Courthouse (1847), Camellia Place (ca. 1847), and Riverview (1847-51). In addition to their classical style, the most significant traits held in common by these four buildings are heavy well-proportioned entablatures and central porticos supported by giant-order columns. The floor plan of the building's main block is the four-rooms-with-central-hall style typical of the period. The joining of a two-story rear stair-hall pavilion with a one-story dining-room/kitchen wing to form a T-plan is unique in the Columbus area. The high quality woodwork and plasterwork of the "public" rooms along with the exceptional "faux bois" treatment of the paneled rear stairway illustrate the excellent craftsmanship employed in Cedar Ridge's construction.

In 1867 the Cox family was forced to sell the house and property for taxes, and after passing through several hands it was purchased by Dr. Jan Uithoven, an emigrant from Holland. On 1900 maps the site of Cedar Ridge appears as a community named "Dutch," a thriving village possessing a post office, church, school, grist mill, saw mill, cotton gin, and store ("History of Proposed Weyerhaeuser Plan Site," Local History Room, Columbus [Miss.] Library. Uithoven may have established in 1907 the first reforestation program in Mississippi when he planted sixty acres across from and north of the house with pine, oak, and other native trees in 1908 (Weyerhaeuser).

Between 1954 and 1956 Cedar Ridge was occupied by a family formerly of the Mennonite faith, giving the house the misnomer of "the Mennonite Place." Weyerhaeuser Paper Company later purchased the land and in 1974 sold the house and ten acres to an individual who agreed to restore the building. After initial stabilization of the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Columbus, Miss. Local History Room, Columbus Library. "History of Proposed Weyerhaeuser Plant Site."
 Cottingim, Cordelia. "Once Ghostly Cox House is Coming Back to Life," The Commerical Dispatch, Nov. 28, 1974.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Ten acres
 UTM REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A	1,6	3,6,4,8,8,0	3,7,1,8,7,5,0	B	1,6	3,6,4,8,3,0	3,7,1,8,5,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	3,6,4,6,2,0	3,7,1,8,5,6,0	D	1,6	3,6,4,6,8,0	3,7,1,8,8,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

"That part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and that part of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Township 17 South, Range 18 West, Huntsville Meridian, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of Section 7, Township 17 South, Range 18 West, and running thence West a distance of 888.0 feet; thence South 2,278.0 feet to an iron pin, the initial point of the tract herein described; and from this initial point running thence South 13 degrees 50 minutes West a distance of 782.0 feet to an iron pin; thence North 76 degrees 10 minutes West a distance of 557.0 feet to an iron pin on the East

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: Kenneth H. P'Pool, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: December 19, 1979

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box W-239 TELEPHONE: (601) 328-0104

CITY OR TOWN: Columbus STATE: Mississippi

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE: February 15, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: W. A. Imbis DATE: 5/8/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: 5/7/80

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 25 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY '8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8,9&10 PAGE 1

8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

structure, unfortunate financial circumstances prevented further work and eventually brought about resale of the property. The present owner is attempting to carry out plans for restoration.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crocker, Mary Wallace. Historic Architecture in Mississippi. Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973.

Lowndes Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed books 6, 23, 24, 35.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites: Lowndes County: Cox House.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description)

boundary line of a gravel public road; thence North along the East boundary line of said road North 13 degrees 50 minutes East a distance of 782.0 feet to an iron pin; thence South 76 degrees 10 minutes East a distance of 557.0 feet to the initial point, containing 10.0 acres, more or less."