

PH0663816

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 28 1978
DATE ENTERED JUN 7 1978

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 Cook House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Murdoch Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Parkersburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Congressional District

STATE

West Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE

54

COUNTY

Wood

CODE

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Elizabeth Wolfe Eddy

Headquarters for Junior League of Parkersburg

STREET & NUMBER

1138 Oakdale Road, N. E.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30307

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wood County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Parkersburg,

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The gabled, center block plan with flanking wings (three part composition) identifies the Cook House, together with its scale, articulation of detail, and building material as a Federal Style residence similar in manner to certain houses found in eastern Virginia in the time of Thomas Jefferson. Exterior decoration is confined almost entirely to the entrance and center gable, a characteristic affinity of late Federal style residences of the Ohio Valley and Western Virginia. The embellishment of the red brick facade in a Flemish bonding is the only other reference to ornament on the building's exterior.

Both the structural integrity and fabric of the Cook House remain largely intact from the date of construction in 1825. Minor changes occurred in 1949 with concrete paving of the cellar floor, the resurfacing of the roof, and the reinforcement of the front door sill. The red bricks of the facade were painted red in 1976.

The house is positioned in a highly symmetrical inverted T plan emphasizing rectangular outlines. The roofs of the center block and complementary wings are low pitched gable types devoid of cornice trim. The main unit gable suggests a pediment with short partial return cornices. The gable is centered with a semi-elliptical fanlight with wooden members.

The brick arches framing the gable fanlight and semi-elliptical transom of the entry are centered in the middle bay of the main unit. Windows elsewhere in the front elevation are headed with flat brick arches and filled with 9/6 light double hung sashes. Of special interest is the depth of the paneled reveals of the entrance indicating the thickness of the center block load-bearing walls at 13 to 14". The millwork of the doorway is original and outlined with attenuated, ribbed pilasters, a subtle reference to the building's Federal styling. The building's rear walls are finished in a common brick bond but contain the same fenestration as the front with the exception of the upper floor windows which exhibit 6/6 light sashes.

The main unit of the Cook House is two rooms deep on both floors for a total of four rooms. Each wing contains a single room. The house wings measure 15'-6" in width, while the total length of the center block is 32'-3".

The large central chimney of the house bisects the roof ridge running front to rear. It forms the central division between the two upper and two lower rooms. Two interior end chimneys of elegant proportion rise high above the single story wings. They are flanked on the end walls by louvered quarter vents.

The oaken woodwork of the Cook House has been uncovered following the removal of paint during recent restoration activity. The plain window casing and matching chair rails complement the first floor single-shelf mantles that are noteworthy for their simple lines and subtle detail. The mantles' thin, ribbed pilasters frame both sides of the rectangular fireplace openings. Paneled end blocks and a plain frieze are found in the mantles of the first floor wings.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Tillinghast A. Cook

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cook House of Parkersburg, West Virginia, reflects in its intact architectural plan the station of its builder in the settlement and affairs of the mid-Ohio Valley in the early nineteenth century. Built of red brick in an imposing Federal style unique in the area, the house served as the seat of a landed gentleman—a local squire—on a hundred acre estate commanding the principal north-south thoroughfare of early Parkersburg. The evolution of the Cook property from its rude beginnings in the last years of the eighteenth century to its refined status in the mid 1820's is echoed in the eloquent prose of the noted frontier physician and historian, Dr. Samuel P. Hildreth of Marietta, Ohio, on the general development of Parkersburg. Hildreth writes in 1842 in his Original Contributions to the American Pioneer on the history of a voyage on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in 1805:

"Twelve miles below the mouth of the Muskingum, at the junction of the Little Kanawha with the Ohio, they passed without landing, the little town of Newport, since changed to that of Parkersburg. Although it was at that time the seat of justice for Wood County, it consisted of only a few log houses. It has since grown into a town of considerable importance, with many large brick buildings. The settlement commenced about the same time with that at Marietta."

The Cook House is one of the few remaining buildings in Wood County directly linked with the settlement period. Moreover, the element of historical continuity is here emphasized with the ownership of the house by the same family from the date of its construction in 1825 to the present.

Progenitor of the Parkersburg Cooks was Captain Joseph Cook who arrived in the mid-Ohio Valley from Dartmouth, Massachusetts, in 1795. He settled first at Belpre, Ohio, (Northwest Territory) on a farm overlooking the island Harmon Blennerhassett later purchased (in part) in 1798. In 1797 Cook bought a 216 acre farm in what is now Parkersburg and moved his family into a hastily constructed log house on the property.

The son of Captain Joseph Cook, Tillinghast A. Cook (1790-1869), inherited this estate then reduced to half its original size. On this parcel - adjacent to 13th Street, the Parkersburg corporation limit - Tillinghast Cook built in 1825 an elaborate brick house fronted by Sand Road, now Murdoch Avenue.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bartlett, Margaret H. "Early History of Parkersburg and Vicinity". A paper read before the Parkersburg Literary Club, February 21, 1903 (West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Parkersburg, W.Va. - Ohio

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 452075 4347210
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Cook House is located adjacent to the northwest corner of Murdoch Avenue and 13th Street on a lot bounded by Murdoch Avenue on the east, 13th Street on the south, the property of Montgomery Ward and Co. on the west, and the lot of John D.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rodney S. Collins, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Department of Culture and History

DATE

October 17, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

West Virginia Science and Culture Center, Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE

(304) 348-0224

CITY OR TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Clarence Moran

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 23, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/2/78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

6-6-78

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Tillinghast A. Cook was a prominent man of community affairs whose background fitted well into the local social milieu. As a young man Cook served in the War of 1812 in a company of Virginians under the command of General William Henry Harrison. He was later entrusted with the office of Sheriff of Wood County in the years 1853-57, a position he apparently took with utmost gravity. Appointed to carry out a whipping sentence for thievery, Mr. Alvaro J. Gibbens relates in his Wood County Formation that "the Sheriff, Uncle Till Cook, with a good strong whip, began the execution of this sentence, and as the red streak appeared after each stroke of the whip, we were convinced that it was an awful bad job to be caught stealing from a clothesline".

T. A. Cook was a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of early Parkersburg. Following the "Great Revival" of 1832 the efforts of Cook, Henry Logan, and James H. Neal were manifest in the construction of the first brick Methodist church in Parkersburg on Littleton Street (Fifth and Market Street) in 1935. Cook was a local activist in the doctrinal dispute between the North and South Methodist Churches that reached crisis proportions in the years 1844-45.

Following the death of T. A. Cook in 1869, the house was occupied by a son Horace, and then by his descendants. In this period a newspaper article states: "the boards were covered with old rugs, the mantels were hung with stockings belonging to the little Cooks, the quaint cupboards were filled with venerable china and pewter and brass, the old flintlock musket sat in the corner..."

The Cook descendants, among them Nellie Cook, artist, ceramist, and once board member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, have jealously conserved the architectural and historic fabric of the house over the years. The present owner, Mrs. Elizabeth Wolf Eddy, great-granddaughter of the builder, can recall the story of how the house was built from locally fired brick and sawn timber from the long vanished virgin forests of early Parkersburg.

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Captain Joseph Cook, One of the Early Pioneers and Settlers of Wood County, West Virginia, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 1879.

Cook family genealogical records, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Death records, Book 1, page 44, Wood County Court House, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Gibbens, Alvaro J. Wood County Formation. Morgantown, West Virginia: The Acme Press, 1899.

Heritage and Horizons. Parkersburg Art Center, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 1972.

Hildreth, Samuel P. Original Contributions to the American Pioneer, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1844.

Parkersburg 1907. Parkersburg, West Virginia: The W. M. Barnes Directory Co., 1907

Smith, E. Rassig. The Planning of Methodism in Wood County and Adjacent Counties. Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Thomas, Kathy. "Junior League Will Move into Historic House". Parkersburg News, April 28, 1974.

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and Jane Rafferty on the north.