

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **NOV 10 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Cook House

and/or common Cook-Harris House

**2. Location**

street & number 222 Extension Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hazlehurst N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Copiah code 29

**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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. James Lloyd Metts

street & number 222 Extension Street

city, town Hazlehurst \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Mississippi

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk; Copiah County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Hazlehurst state Mississippi

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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			N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cook House, a raised Greek Revival cottage, erected in 1866, is situated on a verdant parcel with stately magnolias at 222 Extension Street in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Reputed to be the only Greek Revival cottage in the municipality, it is embedded in a block, opposite a twentieth-century commercial area, distinguished by a preponderance of turn-of-the-century buildings. Divided into five bays, the Cook House has two stories, the bottom one of which is not fully expressed on the front facade. Crowned by a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles (originally cypress-shingled), two corbeled/denticulated chimneys flank the modest ridge, piercing the centers of the gently-pitched side slopes.

The bottom story, or garden level is constructed of hand-made bricks, like the plaster-covered interior walls, and is lighted by double-hung sash windows. The center-bay entrance to this level, concealed by the eight-step approach to the principal entrance, is a single-leaf door emphasized by sidelights. The rear elevation, on which the first story is fully exposed, is punctuated by six-over-six double-hung windows, and is served by a six-panel door set in a simple enframingent.

The second or principal level--framed of hand-hewn, heart-pine timbers with pegged, mortise-and-tenon joints--is clearly articulated by the vocabulary of the Greek Revival idiom. Box columns, a simply-molded entablature, and a flush-board, cornice-framed tympanum constitute the central, one-bay portico. The primary entrance, which is set between pilasters, is a four-panel door accentuated by a transom, sidelights and a shouldered-architrave surround. Piercing the heart-pine clapboard fabric are six-over-six double-hung windows capped by cornice windowheads and flanked by the original exterior blinds. Surmounting the enriched window surrounds is the aforementioned entablature, a feature which wraps around the entire building. Projecting from the rear elevation is a gallery, enclosed in 1927, and two unheated cabinet rooms. This appendage, elevated on posts which rest upon brick pedestals, is topped by a shed roof.

The interior configuration, a double-pile plan, incorporates eight rooms, four on each level, and two front-to-back hallways. Measuring eighteen feet by eighteen feet, the four front rooms are slightly larger than their rear counterparts whose dimensions are eighteen feet by sixteen feet. Ceilings reach a height of twelve feet on the primary level. Eight fireplaces, one in each principal space, are serviced by the two previously-mentioned, interior chimneys. A kitchen-eating area and a bathroom fill the rear enclosure.

To adapt the structure for modern conveniences, the current owner has engaged an architect to minimally modify the subordinate level in a manner which retains the original configuration. Further, plans are being developed to rebuild the carriage house, and restore the cistern-bath area, the latter component of which was equipped originally with tubs fashioned out of heavy tin.

## 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 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** 1866 **Builder/Architect** George W. McKinnell

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cook House is architecturally significant as a fine example of a post-Civil War raised Greek Revival cottage, and is notable as the sole remaining Greek Revival residence within the environs of Hazlehurst. It is also significant as the residence of Edwin Gray Cook, a civic-minded Warren and Copiah County citizen.

During the flush times of Mississippi's ante-bellum years, the Greek Revival style flourished throughout the state. The cottage form of the idiom was built almost everywhere, from the prosperous plantation societies of Natchez and Columbus to the nascent railroad communities of Magnolia and Hazlehurst in South Mississippi. In the rural areas of the state, these simple cottages usually exhibited some sophisticated elements, whether in the frontispiece, window surrounds, colonnade or interior woodwork. The Cook House, notable for being constructed during the economically depressed post-war years, expresses an eloquent combination of the simple, strong form of the Greek Revival cottage, and the detailed decorative elements found among Mississippi's more elaborate Greek Revival mansions. Furthermore, as a raised cottage with a one-bay, pedimented entrance, the Cook House assumes an architectural sophistication which differs from most one-story, five-bay Greek Revival cottages.

Hazlehurst, located approximately thirty-two miles south of Jackson, became prominent in the 1860's as a station along the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad. The city received its charter in 1865, and seven years later became the county seat (James F. Brieger, compiler and publisher, Hometown Mississippi, 1980, p. 116). Among the men attracted to this up-and-coming railroad town was Edwin Grey Cook. Born in Virginia in 1810, Cook and his parents settled in Warren County, Mississippi, during his early childhood. In 1835, Cook married Henrietta V. Harris of Warren County, and a few years later he constructed a residence in Vicksburg for his growing family. Following the death of his first wife, Cook married Olivia Mosley Curtis in 1856 (Copiah County (Mississippi) Courier News, undated article).

Although Cook has been referred to as both "Reverend" and "Colonel," his formal education and training is unascertainable. By 1860, however, the United States Census listed him as a planter (Copiah County (Mississippi) Courier News, undated article).

During the Civil War Cook served as Treasurer of Vicksburg, and President of the Board of Police (Supervisors) of Warren County (Daily Vicksburg, Ms. Commercial Herald, October 10, 1894). After the fall of Vicksburg in 1863, Cook relocated his family to Copiah County, where he preached regularly to the congregation of the Hazlehurst Methodist Episcopal Church (J. B. Cain, Hazlehurst Methodist Church 1860-1960 Nashville: The Parthenon Press, n.d., n.p.).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brieger, James F. Hometown Mississippi. Compiled and privately published by James F. Brieger, 1980.

(continued on attached sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.7

Quadrangle name Hazlehurst

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	7	4	6	3	1	0	3	5	2	7	5	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr. James Metts, owner

organization N/A

date August 1983

street & number 222 Extension Street

telephone 894-3069

city or town Hazlehurst

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



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 4, 1983

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

12/8/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8, 9, 10

Page 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

After the war, Cook constructed a permanent residence and school building in Hazlehurst. The school building, located behind the residence, was supervised by Nellie Curtiss, Cook's sister-in-law. Curtiss directed the school, and "taught, for a number of years, a select number of pupils from the leading families of Hazlehurst and adjoining towns." As a result, the Cook Home became "the clearing house of education and social life of the early days of Hazlehurst" (Copiah County (Mississippi) Courier News, undated article).

Edwin Grey Cook died in 1894. After the death of Olive Cook in 1901, the Cook House was sold out of the family. After a succession of owners, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Metts purchased the Cook House in 1978, and initiated a full restoration of the historic house.

9 - BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cain, J. B. Hazlehurst Methodist Church 1860-1960. Nashville: The Parthenon Press, n.d.

Copiah County (Mississippi) Courier News, undated article.

Daily (Vicksburg, Mississippi) Commercial Herald, October 10, 1894.

10 - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Cook House is located on 2.7 acre irregularly shaped lot; the boundary description begins at the northeast corner at a point on Extension Street, and commences 154 feet south where it reaches the southeastern boundary at a point on Extension Street. From thence it continues 400 feet west, then 90 feet south, then 230 feet west until it reaches the southwest corner. From thence it continues 200 feet north where it meets the northeast corner. From thence it continues 230 feet east, then 78 feet north, then 307 feet southeast until it meets the point of beginning at the northeast corner.