

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 07 1991

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cooney, Captain Michael, House
other names/site number ID#304; SR Site #624

2. Location

street & number 309 McCutcheon Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Socorro N/A vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Socorro code 053 zip code 87801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Domestic Architecture in Socorro, New Mexico, 1870-1912 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Ann W. Vell SRPO 12-28-90
Signature of certifying official Date
Historic Preservation Division
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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): _____

Adriana Byrne 2/20/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

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)

Late Victorian

Other: brick vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Michael Cooney House is a one-story, red-brick residence with a front gable roof and intersecting side gables. In the el created by the front gable and the east-facing side wing is an east-facing, wooden entry porch with a gently arched frieze. It is supported by three chamfered posts and four square posts resting on a balustrade of turned, urn-shaped balusters. Windows are original wooden, 1/1, double-hung, with brick, segmental-arched lintels and stone or in some cases wooden sills. Below the front gable facing south onto McCutcheon Avenue there is a three-sided bay window with a flared metal roof. The house is set back from the street and a low stone wall runs along the front property line.

The building has not been significantly altered. The roof, which the 1893 Sanborn map shows as wood shingled, is presently covered with asphalt shingles.

The Cooney House is in good condition and well conveys its historic associations.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Other: mining
Politics/government

Period of Significance

C: c. 1889
B: 1895-1914

Significant Dates

C: c. 1889
B: 1895-1914

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Cooney, Captain Michael

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cooney house is significant architecturally as one of the brick houses built on McCutcheon Avenue, using the new materials and styles brought by the railroad. These houses form the core of the neighborhood built on or near McCutcheon and Church Avenues in the 1880s and 1890s as a result of the prosperity of Socorro's mining boom. The Cooney House is historically significant for its association with Captain Michael Cooney a leading figure in Socorro mining and politics.

History of the House

The exact construction date of the house is not known but it first appears on the 1893 Sanborn map. Michael Cooney bought the property from Harry P. and Elvenie W. Noake for \$700 on July 16, 1895, (Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 25, p. 394). In 1885 and 1886 Annie McCutcheon, who platted the addition, had sold Noake two lots (#14 and #16) and a strip of land north of these lots, all of which comprised the west two thirds of the eventual Cooney property (Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 11, pp. 705-706; Bk 18, pp. 448-449). In 1888 Noake bought lot #12 (lying east of lot #14) and a corresponding strip on the north (Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 22, pp. 405). By 1889 when he deeded lots #14 and #16 to El Vena (sic) Noake, Harry Noake was described as a resident of El Paso, Texas (Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 25, pp. 592-593). Presumably Noake built the house before 1889.

Little is known of Harry P. Noake. In the 1884 business directory a Harry N. Noke is listed in Socorro as a blacksmith. In the directory of 1888-1889, H.P. Noake is a blacksmith, horseshoer, and a wagon and carriage maker. Six years later when the Noakes sold this property to Michael Cooney, they were living in El Paso, Texas.

In 1912 Michael Cooney purchased 1.23 acres directly north of his residence, (Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 76, p. 313-314, referenced in Conron and Lent). The property remained in the Cooney family until 1939 when the Captain's son, Charles, sold it to Elsie Lehew, (Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 123, p. 432, referenced in Conron and Lent).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The legal description of the property which includes the historic resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Corinne P. Sze date November 1, 1990
organization Research Services of Santa Fe telephone (505) 983-5605
street & number 1042 Stagecoach city or town Santa Fe state NM zip code 87501

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Captain Michael Cooney

Michael Cooney came to the Socorro area in 1880 to take over the mining interests of his younger brother, James C. Cooney. In 1870, while stationed at Fort Bayard, the younger Cooney had discovered silver and copper ore in the Mogollon Mountains. Having been discharged from the military, he returned in 1876 to work his claim and continue prospecting. He organized the Cooney Mining District and the town of Cooney. Four years later James Cooney was killed by Apache Indians.

The Cooney brothers were born in Canada of Irish immigrant parents. Michael Cooney came to Chicago in 1860 and a year later, with the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After the war, having served for three years in the Union Army, Cooney returned to Canada and studied at a military school in Toronto. He then turned to military activities dedicated to the cause of freeing Ireland from British rule. In 1866 he went to Buffalo, New York, and participated in an attempted raid on Canada by the Fenians, an Irish-American revolutionary secret society dedicated to Irish independence. Afterwards, Cooney went to Chicago again where he engaged in the liquor business for several years and continued to support the Irish cause. In 1868 he joined the first Irish Republican Club ever organized in the United States. He organized the Irish Rifles of the Illinois State Guards, and was commissioned a Captain of this command by Governor Palmer. In 1870 he participated in a second unsuccessful attempt to invade Canada for the purpose of securing Irish independence by instigating an uprising in that country. Upon his return to Chicago, Cooney organized the Irish-American Ambulance Corps to aid the Irish Republicans. This group disbanded after unsuccessful attempts to raise funds.

Cooney, his personal finances devastated by his participation in activities in support of Irish independence, left Chicago for New Orleans late in 1870. There he engaged in business and Republican politics. He was appointed inspector of customs for the port and organized the Mitchell Rifles which he commanded until he left Louisiana.

After the 1880 death of his brother, Michael Cooney came to New Mexico where he would remain for the rest of his life living in the town of Cooney and later in Socorro. Taking over his brother's mining interests, he continued their development by organizing a working company and superintending the mines. He erected a 5-stamp mill, the first mill in the Cooney district. His first year's shipments to the Argo smelter at Denver were valued at \$360,000, (Twitchell, p. 285). After it became uneconomical bring out ore without improved reduction

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facilities, the mine was closed for a number of years and later leased to a nephew, Thomas F. Cooney. Captain Cooney turned to ranching and is listed in the 1906 business directory as having sheep and goats.

After settling in New Mexico, Cooney continued to be active in Republican politics. In the 1882 and 1888, he was elected to represent Socorro County in the Territorial Legislature. In 1894, he was elected collector of taxes for the county, a post he held at his death. In 1902 he was elected mayor of Socorro.

Cooney also concerned himself with education. In 1890 he donated a United States flag to the Cooney schoolhouse, the first flag to fly over a schoolhouse in New Mexico. In 1895, after moving to Socorro, he presented another flag to Socorro schoolhouse #1, on the condition that the boy or girl who received the highest marks would hoist the flag and take it down the next day. The child who did the most flag raising for the year would be named the captain of the color guard and would receive from Cooney a gold medal pendant attached to a small silk flag. To the next nine runner-ups would go silk flag badges and ranks from first lieutenant to fourth corporal of the color guard. At the time of his death Cooney was secretary and treasurer of the board of regents of the School of Mines. Cooney was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and retained his membership in Magnolia Lodge, No. 22 of New Orleans.

Michael Cooney lived to the age of seventy-six. He died of exposure in the Mogollon Mountains while searching for a mine that had supposedly been found by a prospector Cooney had grubstaked in 1883. The miner had disappeared and was found dead six years later. After several failed attempts to find the mine, Cooney set out by himself on October 26, 1914. Four months later his badly decomposed remains were found by a search party financed by the regents of the School of Mines and the Odd Fellows.

Significance

Architecturally, the Cooney House is significant as one of the least altered of the brick houses which formed the neighborhood which developed on and near McCutcheon and Church Avenues as a result of Socorro's mining boom. It illustrates the use of new building materials and new ideas of room arrangement and of siting which came with the railroad.

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The dwelling is significant historically for its association with Michael Cooney, a prominent figure in the mining and political history of Socorro. All that is left of the town of Cooney are rubble and rock foundations. No other home in Socorro has been identified with Cooney. The Captain Cooney House was listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties on March 20, 1978.

The Period of Significance for Criterion C is c. 1889, the approximate construction date, and for Criterion B, 1895-1914, the dates of Michael Cooney's ownership.

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New Mexico Business Directory, 1906.

Christiansen, Paige W. Socorro County Historical Society Publications in History, III. Socorro, New Mexico, 1967.

Coan, Charles F. History of New Mexico, III. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1925.

Conron and Lent, Architects. "Captain Cooney House," Application for Registration, New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, Form A (revised), 1978.

Garner/Hicks Architects. "Historic Resources of Socorro, New Mexico." Application for Registration, New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, Form A, 1982.

Gazetteer and Business Directory, I. Chicago: R. L. Polk and Co. and A.C. Danser, 1884-5.

Haines, Helen. History of New Mexico. New York: Historical Publishing Company, 1891.

Illustrated History of New Mexico. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1895.

McKenny's Business Directory, 1888-1889.

Sanborn Maps, 1893, 1898, 1902, 1913, 1930.

Socorro County Deeds.

"Socorro Pioneer Who Perished in Mogollon Mountains," unidentified newspaper clipping. Prince Papers. State Records Center and Archives.

Stanley, F. (Crocchiola). Socorro: The Oasis. Denver: World Press, Inc., 1950.

Territorial Census, 1885.

Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. The Leading Facts of New Mexico History, IV. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Torch Press, 1917.

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Section number 10 Page 1

CODE 1-350-238
NUMBER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

REAL PROPERTY LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Township-3-South, Range-1-West (Section-21) Socorro Grant.

All of Lots 12, 14 and 16 in Annie E. McCutcheon's Addition to the City of Socorro, According to the Plat Thereof made by Dr. George Way and on file in the County Clerk's Office in Socorro County. Said Lots 12, 14 & 16 being 25 feet front each on the North side of McCutcheon Ave, By 120 feet deep from North to South Also a strip of land lying directly North of said Lots No. 12, 14 and 16 being 25 feet More or less from North to South and 75 feet long from East to West, And Bounded on the South by Lots-12, 14, & 16 aforesaid, on the East by Preoperty Formerly of Annie E. McCutcheon, on the North by lands formerly of H.J. Vincent, and on the West by lands formerly of W.D. Burlingame, now that of Mrs. James G. Fitehr all the Above property being that described in the Certain Warranty deed made July 16th 1895 by Harry P. Neake and wife to Michael Cooney and Recorded in the Office of the County Clerk's of Socorro County, New Mexico, in Book-25 of Deed Records at 394 to which reference is hereby made.