

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 7 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 19 1976

**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

** Cedar Grove

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2200 Oak Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

28

Warren

149

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vicksburg Little Theater

STREET & NUMBER

2200 Oak Street

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Chancery Clerk, Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 351

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cedar Grove is a brick, two-and-one-half-story Greek Revival residence which faces west from a terrace overlooking the floodplains of the Mississippi River at Vicksburg. The site is enhanced by many original landscape features including an informal garden, several "Fancy Terracotta" statues, a cast-iron gazebo with ogee roof, and an iron fountain fed from a cistern elevated by an artificial mound. Also original are the brick and iron fences in front of the mansion and the small greenhouses, now in partial ruin, on the south lawn.

As it stands today, Cedar Grove is the product of four major building phases spanning a period of over thirty years. Begun ca. 1840, the earliest section is two-and-one-half stories high and five bays wide, with simple Tuscan porticoes sheltering balconies on both the front and rear elevations. Of special interest is the single run, cast-iron stair with pierced risers that services the rear balcony. Entrances on the ground and balcony levels are contained in pilastered frontispieces with hinged sidelights, transoms, and four-paneled doors. Tall, floor length windows are double hung with nine-over-nine glazing. The interior arrangement, based on the double-pile plan, accommodates double parlors south of a stair hall, and bed and dining rooms opposite. Major woodwork consists of pilaster-like architraves around doors and windows and the walnut staircase of turned balusters, newel, and scrolled step-ends. Plaster is used for all decorative cornices and centerpieces. As the most formal rooms of the original section, the double parlors are decorated with marbled baseboards and ceilings treated with a large octagonal recess edged with enriched talons in plaster.

In 1852, a wing containing a library, a ballroom, and bedrooms was added to the south wall of Cedar Grove. The forward portion, occupied by the library, is one story high and covered by a shed roof screened by a parapet wall. Beyond, the wing is two full stories in height. While most architectural features of the addition are similar to those of the main house, the ballroom is significantly more elaborate, with its well-proportioned, academic entablature, carved marble mantel, and large plaster centerpiece.

Six years after the completion of the south wing, a very similar addition was built to the north wall of the mansion. The new wing provided space for sitting and dining rooms on the first floor and bedrooms on the second. During this phase of construction it is likely that the one-story brick kitchen was attached to the main house by a small hyphen and an additional storage room built.

Cedar Grove reached its final and present appearance as the result of several minor remodelings occurring ca. 1870. At the time, a bracketed bay window was installed on the facade elevation of the north wing. The space under a portion of the rear balcony was enclosed to provide an alcove off the northeast sitting room (the original dining room). Because part of a load-bearing wall had to be removed, an arch with richly detailed plaster moldings was constructed between the two rooms.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		associated with prominent families

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cedar Grove is a significant example of Greek Revival domestic architecture and because of its integrity of setting, structure and furnishings, is considered one of the most valuable documents of that style in Mississippi. In addition, the mansion is locally significant as the residence of several families prominent in the social and economic history of Vicksburg.

Cedar Grove was constructed as the residence of John Alexander Klein (1812-1884), a native of Loudon County, Virginia, who moved to Vicksburg in 1836. Klein began his career in Mississippi as a jeweler but soon expanded into the sawmill and lumber business, from which he amassed considerable wealth. Despite generally vague records, it is believed that Klein began building Cedar Grove in 1840 and that it stood completed by November, 1842, when he married Elizabeth Bartley Day. To the original structure, Klein made two major additions in the 1850s and undertook one remodeling in the 1870s. Additional space was required by a family of eight children, but the enlargements to Cedar Grove were also motivated in part by what a contemporary called Klein's "great passion for building" (Vicksburg Evening Post, February 4, 1884). With the same enthusiasm, Klein created an appropriate landscape setting to contrast and complement the formal symmetry of Cedar Grove. Working within a limited area, Klein established an informal irregular garden of serpentine walks on the north lawn. Within the garden today are many original terra-cotta ornaments, such as urns and classical figures, on pedestals. An octagonal cast-iron gazebo with a picturesque ogee roof is the garden's most prominent ornament and is considered the finest known example of its type in Mississippi.

In spite of its vulnerable location, Cedar Grove was only slightly damaged by Federal gunboats shelling the town from the Mississippi River during the forty-seven day siege of Vicksburg in 1863. Klein himself sustained severe financial reverses as a result of the eventual collapse of the Southern economy. These losses were temporary, for in 1866, Klein became a senior partner in the Vicksburg Bank and later president of the Mississippi Valley Bank. He also became financially involved in the building of both the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad and the Memphis and Vicksburg Railroad (Vicksburg Evening Post, February 4, 1884; In and About Vicksburg, p. 189).

After Klein's death in 1884, Cedar Grove continued in family ownership until 1919 when it was purchased by Antoine Tonnar, a wealthy planter. In 1936, the property was sold to Dr. August J. Podesta, a prominent physician who served as the superintendent of the Mississippi State Charity Hospital in Natchez from 1920 until 1924 (Rowland, 3:372). Podesta held title to Cedar Grove until 1960, when it was purchased by the Vicksburg Theater Guild, which has preserved the mansion, furnishings and grounds as an historic house museum open daily to the public.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

In and About Vicksburg. Vicksburg: Gibraltar Publishing Company, 1890.

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Warren County. Cedar Grove.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 3

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,5</u>	<u>6,9,8</u> <u>9,9,5</u>	<u>3,5</u> <u>7,9</u> <u>9,2,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

May 3, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

601-354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

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

Charles R. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest:

[Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/19/76

Attest:

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

July 16, 1976

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

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State Times (Jackson, Miss.), August 14, 1960.

Vicksburg (Miss.) Evening Post, February 4, 5, 1884;
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Warren County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Will Book B,
p. 144. Mississippi Department of Archives and
History. Microfilm.