

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 15 1979

**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

The Cook House
AND/OR COMMON

Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

222 Florence Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Alexandria

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th- Gillis Long

STATE

Louisiana

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

022

COUNTY

Rapides Parish

CODE

079

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred E. Cook, Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

222 Florence Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Alexandria

STATE

Louisiana

__ VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rapides Parish Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Murray Street

CITY, TOWN

Alexandria

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Cook house is prominently placed on a large more or less open lot on the corner of Florence Avenue and Monroe Street in an old residential section of Alexandria. The property has a small reflecting pool in front, and a modern carport to the side. (The visual impact of the carport is minimal, since it can hardly be seen from either of the two streets.)

The house itself is a two and one half story brick Queen Anne-Colonial structure, with four main rooms upstairs and down, and an octagonal corner turret under a bellcast roof. One of the front rooms merges with a rear alcove to form a living hall. This living hall contains a broad staircase with a window seat at the landing, and a fireplace and semioctagonal bay. Opposite the living hall is a living room and a rear dining room which leads to a rear kitchen wing. The aforementioned turret forms a large corner alcove in the living room. The downstairs rooms connect by means of wide doorways, which have open transoms filled with wood, lacework, and scrollsaw fillagree.

The house is constructed of double wall brick with an airspace between. The floors rest on long leaf yellow pine joists.

The house has large plate glass sash windows, Colonial Revival details (including two porches), and a pyramid roof.

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 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

1904-1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sherman Cook, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Despite the considerable late 19th and early 20th century development in the city of Alexandria, the Cook house is the city's only fully developed Queen Anne Revival residence. Aside from its fine scrollsaw lacework in the transoms, it has the only spatially effective living hall in the city. That is to say, in the Cook house living hall, there is a wide doorway under the staircase which symmetrically frames the fireplace in the rear alcove. There are several other living halls in town, but none has any designed visual or spatial relationship between the staircase and fireplace. In addition, of the several Queen Anne turrets in the city, that of the Cook house is the most impressive. It is the only turret which is not obscured by a porch, and its bellcast roof is unmatched anywhere in the city.

The home's builder was Sherman Cook (1865-1923), a prominent citizen of Alexandria. In 1901, he purchased the ten-acre site from Iddo W. Ball in return for a consideration of \$1900 (See Rapides Parish Conveyance Records, Book II, page 404). Construction of the house was well under way by late 1904, when the Daily Town Talk (29 November 1904) noted that Cook's contractor, J.D. Bragg, was in the process of erecting the frame. That the house was a local landmark even in its builder's lifetime is evident from Cook's obituary, which calls the home "one of the prettiest in Alexandria" and notes that it "led the way for the construction of many similar houses in this section" (See "Sherman Cook Dies After Short Illness," newspaper clipping in scrapbook of Mrs. Sherman Cook, in possession of Cook family).

Cook was a native of Ontario, Canada, who came to Alexandria in about 1892 as an engineer to work on the building of the Kansas City, Watkins & Gulf Railway. About 1898 he went into the real estate business and in 1922, a year before his death, was appointed postmaster of Alexandria by President Harding. According to his obituary, Cook was active in local affairs, "having always taken a leading part in all civic movements for the upbuilding of the city and parish." Among the organizations he belonged to were the local Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and Masonic Lodge (See Scrapbook of Mrs. Sherman Cook).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Town Talk (Alexandria), 29 November 1904.

Rapides Parish Conveyance Records.

Scrapbook of Mrs. Sherman Cook, in possession of Cook Family. Copy of relevant pages are located in National Register nomination file for Cook House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 | 5,5,1,3,0,0 | 3,4,6,3,5,2,5
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____ | _____ | _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____ | _____ | _____

D _____ | _____ | _____

E _____ | _____ | _____

F _____ | _____ | _____

G _____ | _____ | _____

H _____ | _____ | _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached plat map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred E. Cook, Sr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

222 Florence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Alexandria

Louisiana 71301

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

Bernard Davis

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8/16/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Skuff
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-15-79

ATTEST: *Bill Grovener*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11/15/79

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY
ALEXANDRIA, LA., JULY 9, 1969

TO ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN TITLE TO PREMISES SURVEYED:

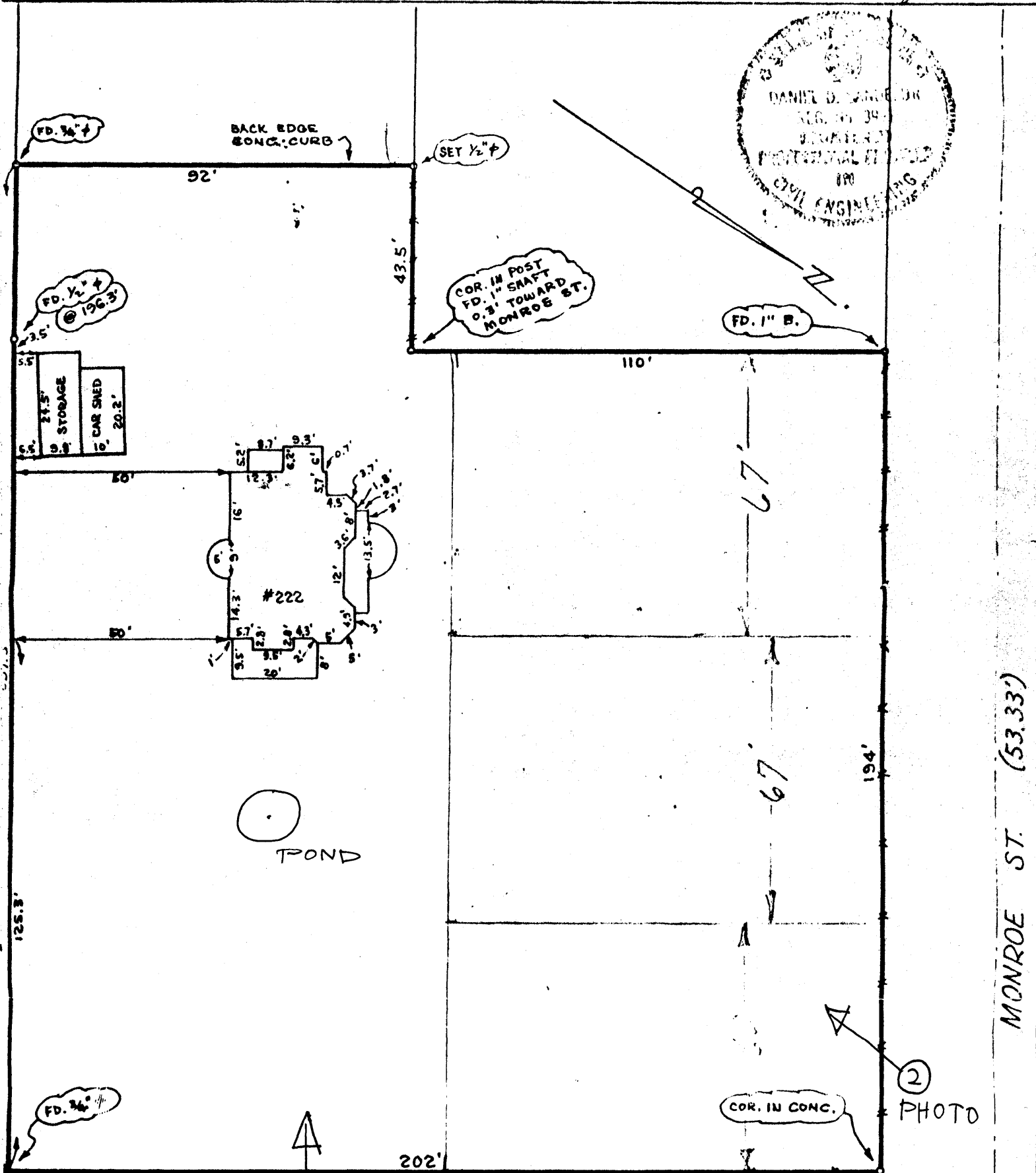
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT CORRECTLY REPRESENTS THE SURVEY MADE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES OR TRACT OF LAND TO WIT: LOT AT MONROE ST. AND FLORENCE AVE., BEING PART OF LOT "E" OF THE VILLA SITES ADD'N., ALEXANDRIA, RAPIDES PARISH, LA.

SCALE: 1" = 30'

FOR _____
AT REQUEST _____

DANIEL D. SANDEFUR

By *Daniel D. Sandefur*



FLORENCE AVE. (60') (36' Conc. Pvt.)

MONROE ST. (53.33')