

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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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).

1. Name of Property

historic name Cherry Grove

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Rt. 1, Box 145

city, town Crystal Springs

state Mississippi

code MS

county Copiah

code 29

zip code 39059

n/a not for publication

x vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- x private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- x building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/a

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 x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Kenneth H. P. Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, MS Department of Archives and History, Date: June 25, 1990

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

Entered in the National Register

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- x 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:)

Signature of the Keeper: Helous Bryan, Date of Action: 8/10/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival  

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Federal  

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  

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walls weatherboard  

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roof asphalt  

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other n/a  

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Cherry Grove is a 990-acre plantation located in the northern part of Covich County on the boundary line with Hinds County. The plantation residence is located on the west side of Old Highway 51 about three miles north of its intersection with State Highway 27. The mid-nineteenth-century house is an architectural anomaly with Federal style motifs incorporated into a Greek Revival cottage that probably dates from 1850 to 1860. The basic form of the house, the dominant Greek Revival portico, the window sash, the newel post, the hardware, the pine flooring, the shutters with moveable louvers, the clapboard cladding beneath the portico (rather than flush boards), the circular-sawn structural timbers, and the primary documentary evidence combine to date the house to the decade of the 1850's. However, the rural builder held onto the earlier Federal style with the fanlighted entrance, circular handrail of the portico, interior wainscoting, and five-panel interior doors.

The five-bay frame cottage rests upon a partially raised basement and is surmounted by a gabled roof that is pierced by two interior brick chimneys. A full molded entablature completely encircles the house to form pedimented gable ends and breaks forward to wrap around a center-bay pedimented portico. The portico is supported by four box columns with molded capitals and bases, and the end columns are echoed on the westerly front wall by matching pilasters. The columns and pilasters are linked by a balustrade of rectangular-sectioned balusters with circular handrail. The portico shelters the entrance doorway which is filled with double-leaf, three-paneled doors that are set beneath an elliptical fanlight and framed by sidelights over molded panels. All windows of the house are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash and almost all are closed by original shutter blinds. The rear of the house is treated similarly to the facade, but the roof of the center-bay rear portico is lower and does not intrude into the entablature.

Extending from the southern gable end of the house is a narrow frame wing with lower gabled roof. Although possibly not original, the wing is stylistically contemporary with the house's main block. The

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gable roof of the side wing is pierced by one interior brick chimney, and a full-width gallery with shed roof extends the full width of the rear elevation. The porch floor of the wing's rear gallery was originally recessed behind box columns which extended to the ground, but this feature was lost in a twentieth-century remodeling (Wilbur Parsons, owner of Cherry Grove, interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, preservation consultant with Miller Preservation Services, at Cherry Grove, August 1989).

The main block of the house has a double-pile plan with wide central hallway. Only a plaster cornice distinguishes the finish of the hallway and the larger front rooms from the other rooms of the house. All door and window surrounds are unmolded with plain corner blocks, an unpaneled wainscoting with molded base and handrail encircles all rooms of the main block, and all chimneys are fronted by simple, wooden pilastered mantel pieces. Most doors have five molded panels except for the bedroom door and rear doors beneath the stair landing that have four-panel and two-panel doors respectively.

The stairway to the upper half story is located to the rear of a plain supporting arch that divides the hallway into front and rear sections. The stairway, which has a turned newel and balusters, is entered on the northern hall wall and runs in a straight flight to an intermediate landing where it makes a full half turn to continue in a second straight flight before terminating in the second-story hallway. Wainscoting continues from the hall up the first flight of stairs but terminates at the landing. The upper-story bedrooms are more plainly trimmed than the first story rooms and feature board walls, unmolded four-panel doors, and an unmolded base. The chimneys that service the first-story rooms rise through the upper-story bedrooms, but they never had fire chamber openings on the second-story level.

The side wing of the house contains a dining room and a kitchen at the far end which are connected to the main house by a hallway with doors opening into two pantries (one of which now contains a modern bathroom) and a stairway to the basement. The hallway and dining room are both trimmed with the same wainscoting as the main block, and the doors in the wing have four molded panels. The dining room retains original storage cabinets with glazed upper doors and an original mantel piece which was later overlaid with vernacular Colonial Revival

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decoration. The kitchen retains its large cooking fireplace but has been modernized in the twentieth century.

The only remaining historic outbuilding is a large frame barn with gabled roof that is located northeast of the house. A single-grave cemetery with the brick vault and tombstone of William H. Didlake (born January 6, 1806, in Middlesex County, Virginia; died July 30, 1869, in Copiah County, Mississippi) the bachelor builder of the house, is located in the northeast corner of the rear yard.

## 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

Period of Significance  
1850-60

Significant Dates  
n/a

Cultural Affiliation  
n/a

Significant Person  
n/a

Architect/Builder  
unknown

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

Cherry Grove is an outstanding Mississippi example of vernacular plantation architecture and is one of the last houses built in Mississippi to exhibit the hallmarks of the Federal style. Although the house was built in the 1850's during the Greek Revival period, the builder incorporated stylistic elements that were popular thirty years earlier during the Federal period. Testifying to an 1850's construction date are the basic form of the house, the dominant Greek Revival portico, the window sash, the interior stairway newel post, the hardware, the pine flooring, the shutters with moveable louvers, the clapboard cladding of the sheltered portion of the facade (rather than flush boards), the circular-sawn structural timbers, and the primary documentary evidence. The builder showed his fondness for the earlier Federal style with the fanlighted entrance, circular handrail of the portico balustrade, interior wainscoting, and five-panel interior doors.

According to family tradition, William H. Didlake came to Mississippi in the early 1830's and soon began to acquire land in the Copeiah County area. Deed Books indicate that he did not acquire the actual site of the house until the 1850's (Xerox of handwritten family history and courthouse research in the possession of Betty Lou Parsons Hickman and Wilbur Parsons, Cherry Grove Plantation, Crystal Springs, Mississippi). According to the gravestone atop a brick vault in the rear yard, William H. Didlake was born in Middlesex County, Virginia, in 1806, and died in Copeiah County, Mississippi, in 1869. He was a bachelor and the property passed first to his nephew, James W. Didlake, and later to the family of his niece Martha Didlake Miller. The property has been owned by the Parsons family since it was purchased in 1939 by Mr. and Mrs. John Armand Parsons.

Unusual architectural features of Cherry Grove are the partially raised basement story (brick floored) and the attached wing that houses pantries, dining room, and kitchen. The attached wing could be an addition but, if so, was added soon after the house was built. The architectural integrity of Cherry Grove is outstanding and includes the survival of all original millwork, hardware, plaster cornices, pantry shelving, and dining room cabinets. Principal alterations are limited to the installation of a bathroom into what was a pantry and to the modernization of the kitchen, which included shortening the windows on the kitchen facade.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Parsons, Wilbur, owner of Cherry Grove Plantation. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller, preservation consultant with Miller Preservation Services, Natchez, at Cherry Grove Plantation, August 1989.

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 640 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
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7	5	3	6	5	0
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3	5	4	8	9	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	5
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7	5	2	0	8	0
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3	5	4	7	2	4	0
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B 

1	5
---	---

7	5	3	6	9	5
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3	5	4	7	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	5
---	---

7	5	2	0	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	4	8	8	6	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all of Section 5, Township 2 North, Range 1 West in Copiah County, Mississippi.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property represents 640 acres of the 990-acre Cherry Grove Plantation. The house is located near the center of Section 5, all of which is both historically and today associated with the plantation residence. The decision to take the entire section is based on the rarity of so much intact acreage still being attached to a plantation residence; the decision to omit the portions of sections 4 and 6 that comprise the total acreage is based on historical  See continuation sheet associations and on the fact that the additional acreage is not necessary to protect historic resources.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant date August 15, 1989  
 organization Miller Preservation Services telephone (601) 442-9786  
 street & number 506 High Street city or town Natchez state Mississippi zip code 39120

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Photographs

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Cherry Grove
- (2) Crystal Springs, Copiah County, Mississippi
- (3) Mary Warren Miller
- (4) August 1989
- (5) Miller Preservation Services

Photo 1--(6) View to east, the westerly facade

Photo 2--(6) View to northwest, the first-story hallway and staircase

Photo 3--(6) View to west, from the dining room into the passage connecting main block of house to wing, showing the original dining room cabinets

Photo 4--(6) View to southwest, the easterly rear and northerly side elevation

Photo 5--(6) View to northeast, the barn

Photo 6--(6) View to northwest, the brick vault and tombstone of William H. Didlake

Cherry Grove  
Crystal Springs, Copiah County, Mississippi

1/4 - 4'

North

