

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 36233x

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 4 1977

DATE ENTERED

JUL 29 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Cook-Morrow House

AND/OR COMMON

John Morrow House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

875 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

COUNTY

Independence

CODE

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. John Morrow

STREET & NUMBER

875 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

72501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Independence County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cook-Morrow House was designed by John P. Kingston, architect, of Worcester, Massachusetts, in what might be termed shingle style though the shingle elements are somewhat muted. The building, constructed in 1909, consists of two-and-one-half stories and a full basement. It is constructed of wood stud walls with brick veneer. The plan form is essentially rectangular with a porch wrapping around the front and right side elevations at the ground level.

The roof is highly pitched with four shingled gable ends. Each gabled end is decorated by a recessed pointed arch form with three rectangular double-hung windows within each arch opening into the top half story. One windowed dormer also opens into this top story from the front elevation.

A denticulated frieze and cornice continuously band the building at the roof wall juncture. Double brackets support this cornice at the center points and corners of each elevation.

Two bay window projections extend from the left side elevation at the ground level. Both the above-mentioned porch and these bay projections are roofed with slightly sloping roofs at approximately the second floor level. The porch roof is supported by square cut stone columns. These simply capped stone columns are linked by a matching cut stone rail and ballusters. The two small service porches opening at each corner between the rear and side elevations are similarly detailed.

The entire structure rests on a rock faced stone base penetrated intermittently by small windows for the basement.

Masonry detailing and workmanship is exceptional. The brick joints are 1/16 inch thick, commonly called buttered joints and brick corners are rounded with a continuous vertical reveal.

The interior remains virtually unaltered with the kitchen as an exception. Original light and plumbing fixtures remain as do some of the most beautiful carved oak mantles in the state. All woodwork and doors on the first and second floors is oak in its original condition. Woodwork in the basement and top half-story is pine for economy's sake also in vintage condition.

A unique plumbing system still functions in the basement allowing the adjustment of hot or cold water for each individual plumbing fixture in the house.

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 checked="" 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 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Kingston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cook-Morrow House is one of the most architecturally significant houses in Batesville. At the time of its construction in 1909, the house was considered the finest residence in the county and even today is considered as such by many. In addition to its obvious architectural merits, the Cook-Morrow House possesses historical significance because of its association with Virgil Young Cook, its builder. Cook was one of the wealthiest, most successful residents of Independence County at the turn of the century. The Cook-Morrow House remains today as an outstanding example of the type of house built by a rich planter and merchant when he moved in from the farm to the city.

Virgil Y. Cook not only was a successful merchant and planter, he also was a veteran of two wars. As a young boy he served as a private with the Confederate Army. During his enlistment he was under the command of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest. In later years Cook worked very actively to maintain an interest in the history of the Confederate Army. He occupied the position of Adjutant General under General Robert G. Shaver, who commanded the Arkansas Division of United Confederate Veterans, and later became Commander of the Arkansas Division of the Trans-Mississippi Division. Later he served as Colonel of the Second Arkansas Infantry during the Spanish-American War of 1898, but did not see action outside the United States.

After young Cook was paroled at Paduka, Kentucky, in 1865, he came to Arkansas and located at Grand Glaize in Jackson County. He worked with the merchant firm of Cox and Byers until 1874 when he relocated at Olyphant. He entered the mercantile business and operated the newly completed Cairo and Fulton Railroad Station. He accumulated land in the Oil Trough Bottoms and in 1884 relocated his mercantile company at Elmo. He operated a sawmill and cotton gin, also, which was reported to have no equal in Arkansas. He remained on his Oil Trough farmlands until 1908 when he constructed his house in Batesville.

By 1908 Colonel Cook had accumulated approximately 8,000 acres in Independence, Jackson, Clay and Greene Counties. He also held an interest in a ranch in Texas.

To design his new residence, Colonel Cook hired architect John Kingston of Worcester, Massachusetts. The original estimate for the house amounted

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Batesville Record, March 16, 1922.

Herndon, Dallas, Centennial History of Arkansas, Chicago: Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

McGinnis, A. C. "Batesville, Historic Town of a Historic County." Independence County Chronicle, Reprint of address to 1967 A.H.A. meeting.

Morrow, John. Personal interview at Cook-Morrow House, October 1, 1976.

W.P.A. Independence County place file at Arkansas History Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1	5
---	---	---

6	2	2	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	5	9	5	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

B

--	--	--

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

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

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

Dan Chapel, Architect and Donna DuVall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-14-76

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

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 Anne Bartley

Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/29/77

DATE

6.21.77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

to \$10,300, but it actually cost \$23,000 to complete. After the foundation had been poured and the framing completed, the foundation was discovered to be too small for the brickwork specified in the contract. A law suit was filed, which halted the work temporarily. Both parties were found to be at fault and an adjusted payment schedule was agreed upon.

Upon the death of Colonel Cook in 1922, his widow occupied the house until 1925. The estate was divided between Colonel Cook's six surviving children. John Morrow, Jr., a grandson of Colonel Cook, now owns and occupies the house. It has never been out of the family and is a virtual museum of valuable family antiques and artifacts of local significance. Two tables that once belonged to John Ringgold, an illustrious Independence County pioneer, are among the prized possessions.

The Cook-Morrow House remains in excellent, unaltered condition today as an example of a house built by a wealthy planter and merchant in 1909. Additionally, this house has remained in the same family since its construction. The quality and detail of design, materials and workmanship, coupled with the family history, make this house a local landmark of historical and architectural significance.

Property

Cook-Morrison House

State

Ark.

Working Number

2.4.77.189

77000-256

out of the file

TECHNICAL

Photos

4

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 2.4.77

HISTORIAN

accept

B. Giovanni

4/29/77

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
M. Hurry
4-22-77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
5-3-77

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hurry
6-20-77

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

JUL 29 1977

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Cook-Morrow House

Batesville

Inc

1976

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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JUL 29 1977

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cook-Morrow House

AND/OR COMMON

John Morrow House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Independence

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of south elevation

PHOTO NO.

1

INT: 2983-75

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Cook-Morrow House
Batesville
Independence
1976, Bob Dunn

2.

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR COMMON

John Morrow House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Independence

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of north elevation

PHOTO NO.

2



Cook-Morrow House
Batesville
Independence
197

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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Cook-Morrow House

AND/OR COMMON

John Morrow House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Independence

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of east elevation.

PHOTO NO.

3

INT: 2983-75



Cook-Morrow House
Batesville
Independence
1976, Bob Dunn
4

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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Cook-Morrow House

AND/OR COMMON

John Morrow House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Independence

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of west elevation

PHOTO NO.

4



COOK-MORROW HOUSE
BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS

Independence Co.

UTM REFERENCE
15 / 622 280 / 280

Map by the Geological Survey
1942
Landmark buildings only,
shown in the city of Batesville

UTM GRID AND 1942 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— 4 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route State Route

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.
5000 yard grid based on U. S. zone system, C
10000 foot grid based on Arkansas (North)
rectangular coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

BATESVILLE, ARK
N 3545—W 3537.572.5
1943
AMS 7655 1 SW—SERIES V884





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

November 12, 1976

Mr. John Morrow
875 Main Street
Batesville, Arkansas

NOV 15 1976



Re: Cook-Morrow House
Batesville, Independence County

Dear Mr. Morrow:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Cook-Morrow House which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their December meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

If you have any questions concerning the program or your property's nomination, please contact Donna DuVall of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

BW:emf

I approve of the above property being nominated
to the National Register of Historic Places.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments:
The location of the house was put on the Delinquent Tx list for 1869. It was a part of the 16th Section, set aside for School purposes and has not been sold by the School Commissioners. Col. Cook had an Act passed by the Legislature about 1890 confirming title to owners who had assessed and paid taxes for the

(date) (signature)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered JUL 29 1977

Name

Location

Cook-Morrow House

Batesville
Independence County

Barnett-Attwood House

New Edinburg vicinity
Cleveland County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. Bill Alexander
Hon. Ray Thornton

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

880 Mott

8/3/77

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-22-77
Reviewer INITIALS: MJL
NR DOE JUL 29 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Cook-Morrow House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

875 Main St

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Arkansas

05

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Independence

code

63

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

☒ Substantially intact-1

☐ unknown - 4

☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

☒ Substantially intact-2

☐ unknown - 5

☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

☒ Substantially intact-3

☐ unknown - 6

☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ Unexcavated

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

☐ Reconstructed

☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

☐ Unknown

ACCESS -

☒ Yes-restricted

☐ Yes-unrestricted

☐ No access

☐ Unknown

historic district?

YES

☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

☒ NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

☒ NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

☒ NO

Saved?

YES

☒ NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- dwelling

now- same

SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW/Gov't/politics

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

☐ planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: vernacular eclectic

architect/m.builder: John Kingston

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal Virgil Young Cook - one of the county's wealthiest + most
successful residents - built this house

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1909

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1.4

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Contains original light and plumbing fixtures

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Considered one of the area's finest residences at time of construction; built
by Col. Virgil Young Cook, one of the county's wealthiest and
most successful planters