

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received SEP 11 1985

date entered

OCT 10 1985

1. Name

historic The Cedars

and/or common Montgomery House

2. Location

street & number Old West Point Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Starkville N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Oktibbeha code 105

3. 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
	N/A 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. J. Pressly Montgomery

street & number Old West Point Road

city, town Starkville N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Descriptioncourthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Oktibbeha County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Starkville state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1977 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cedars or Montgomery House is a large, Greek Revival structure the form of which was derived from the raised-cottage type; that is, the second floor is the main living level.

The original "L"-shaped plan consisted of a two-story, transverse-gabled block with two-story porticoes at each end wall (east and west ends) and a central, two-story portico at the entry (South) facade; from the east end of this transverse-gabled block a two-story wing extended back (North) forming the ell. The rear (North side) of the main block and the rear (west side) of the wing both had two-story porches and exterior stairs. These porches have been enclosed at various times in order to accommodate kitchens, baths, a cream separating room, and other functions.

The building's superstructure is of walnut set atop a foundation of logs. Shingles were originally cypress. The transverse-gabled block consists of brick (now stucco covered and struck to resemble ashlar) on the first floor and wood frame and clapboards on the second floor. It has central entry doors with side lights and transoms at both first and second floor levels; two bays of double-hung windows flank either side of these entries with the first floor sash being six over six and the taller second floor sash twelve over twelve. The second floor windows have shutters. The south portico originally had four circular columns now replaced by square columns which support a full entablature and a pediment. Pilasters respond to the outside columns. The columns enclose a cantilevered balcony which runs the full width of the portico and is protected by a simple, wooden handrail with alternately large and small rectangular-sectioned balusters.

Originally, a curving exterior stair ascended to the second floor on both sides of the portico. The porticoes at the east and west ends of the main block are identical. They consist of four, square, two-story paneled, wooden columns supporting a full entablature and pediment and enclosing a second floor balcony identical to that at the entry. These columns define three bays with doors at the center bays on both levels and with double-hung sash at the outboard bays on both floors.

The ell which extends back to the north consists of central doors on both floors flanked by two bays of windows. A stair to the second floor has been removed and the north windows. A stair to the second floor has been removed and the north window at the first floor has been bricked up.

The first floor plan of the main block consists of a central hall with a stair flanked by 20 foot square parlors to either side. Two, similar 20 foot square rooms comprise the first floor of the ell. The room at the rear was the spinning room where cloth was made. Its original brick floor has been replaced, but exposed beams are intact. Floors are 8" pine boards. Mantles are particularly notable, exhibiting naive variations on classical themes. The most elaborate of these is located at the front parlor and has slender colonnettes with reeded capitals and impost blocks supporting an entablature with recessed panels in the frieze. Ceiling heights in these rooms are only some 9'-0". All doors have transoms. Window and door casings consist of grooved trim with plain corner blocks. Iron and brass door hardware is intact and has the markings of the J. Walker (American) and Carpenter and (English) manufacturers. The valence at the windows is an unusual wave pattern and is intact at all windows.

The second floor rooms have 12'-6" ceilings. The second floor plan is similar to the first with the two rooms of the ell connected by a wide framed opening with sliding doors in order to produce a ballroom. The brass door hardware is intact. At the south end of this ballroom, two niches astride a central fireplace provide a focal point. These niches are outlined with

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates built 1837-40 **Builder/Architect** David Montgomery - builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cedars or Montgomery House is significant as the home of the Montgomery family and as one of the few remaining antebellum structures in Oktibbeha County.

The house was constructed by David Montgomery, a prominent slave owner and planter and a member of the State Legislature (Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County, pp. 48, 58, and 66). His nephew, W. B. Montgomery, acquired the property upon the death of his uncle (Sketches, 97). W. B. Montgomery was also a prominent political leader in the county. He was particularly well known, however, for his progressive activities in the fields of agriculture and education. He was among the developers of the state's early commercial dairy production. He founded and edited The Livestock Journal (Sketches, 1942). He was instrumental in establishing the Starkville Female Institute and Mississippi A & M College (now Mississippi State University) of which he was a member of the first Board of Trustees ("The Reflector", State College, Mississippi, January 18, 1939).

Starkville had only a few wealthy planters and therefore equally few large planter homes. The Montgomery House is decidedly the grandest of these few (Sketches, 97 ff) and is particularly notable for having its second floor as the main floor (see Description Section). This so-called raised cottage type evolved in the Gulf Coast from French and Spanish 18th Century prototypes as a means to have living spaces elevated for ventilation and to avoid flooding (Morrison, Colonial Architecture, 263). It was enlarged and given Neo-Classical dress in order to make it an appropriate 19th century dwelling for Southern planters. The Montgomery House is the only remaining raised cottage type plantation house in Oktibbeha County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 8.5 acres

Quadrangle name Starkville, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	3	2	6	3	0	3	7	0	5	2	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached legal description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
state	NA	code	county	code

state	NA	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Fazio

organization NA

date 12-31-84

street & number P.O. Box 2870

telephone 601-323-3451

city or town Mississippi State

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

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 20, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-10-85

Shelene B. Jones
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Cedars, Oktibbeha County,
Continuation sheet Mississippi

Item number 7, 9, 10

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7 - DESCRIPTION

plaster molding with rosettes at the arch springlines above the mantle. The mantle consists of Doric-like pilasters supporting a paneled entablature. The door casings and the doors in this space are painted using the faux bois technique.

Outbuildings once included brick stables, a barn, a kitchen and a carriagehouse. None remains.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bettersworth, John K. Peoples College, A History of Mississippi State. University of Alabama Press, 1953.

Carroll, Thomas Battle. Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County. Gulfport, Miss.: Dixie Press, 1931.

Ferris, E. B. "Recollections of Colonel W. B. Montgomery." Mississippi State Alumnus. n.d.

Hilbun, Ben. "They Called Him Crazy Until Cows Dethroned King Cotton." Memphis Commercial Appeal, May 24, 1931, p. 14.

Longest, Doy P. "Pre-Civil War Homes in Oktibbeha County." Mississippi State University, unpublished manuscripts, Special Collections, Mitchell Memorial Library.

Montgomery Family Papers.

Moore, J.S. "Jerseys in Southern Agriculture." The Jersey Bulletin, January 25, 1939, p. 106.

Wellborn, John H. The Starkville Daily News. February 10, 1931.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description and Justification)

Commence with the intersection of the North boundary of Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 14 East of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, with the West right-of-way of Glenn Street and run in a Southwesterly direction along the West right-of-way of Glenn Street, a distance of 277 feet to the point of beginning.

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The Cedars, Oktibbeha County,
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10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description and Justification)
(continued)

Thence continue in a Southwesterly direction along the West boundary of Glenn Street a distance of 513 feet; thence run West a distance of 615 feet; thence run North a distance of 500 feet; thence run East a distance of 730 feet to the point of beginning.

Being 8.5 acres located in Lot 2 of Block 95 of the City of Starkville, Mississippi, as shown on the Michael Baker Map of the City of Starkville, Mississippi, 1974 Edition.



The Cedars (Montgomery Hall)

View of South (Front)

Elevation from the South

1 of 5

Starkville, Mississippi

Photographer: Leonard Farley

Date: 9/84

Photo No. 1 of 5



The Cedars (Montgomery House)
View of east elevation from the East
2 of 5

Starkville, Mississippi

Photographer: Leonard Farley

Date: 9/84

Photo No. 2 of 5



The Cedars (Montgomery House)
View of west portico from the West
3 of 5
Starkville, Mississippi
Photographer: Leonard Farley
Date: 9/84
Photo No. 3 of 5



The Cedars (Montgomery House)
Fireplace at Southeast (Front) Parlor
4 of 5

Starkville, Mississippi

Photographer: Leonard Farley

Date: 9/84

Photo No. 4 of 5



The Cedars (Montgomery House)
Stairway to Second Floor
5 of 5

Starkville, Mississippi
Photographer: Leonard Farley
Date" 9/84
Photo No. 5 of 5