

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCPS use only

received AUG 9 1984

date entered SEP 7 1984

1. Name

historic C. H. Parsons House

and/or common Parsons-Evans House

2. Location

street & number 208 W. Georgetown Street NA not for publication

city, town Crystal Springs NA vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Copiah code 29

3. 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
	<u>NA</u> being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Evans

street & number P. O. Box 267

city, town Crystal Springs NA vicinity of state Mississippi 39059

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Copiah County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Hazlehurst state Mississippi 39211

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☒ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☒ unaltered	☒ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the north side of West Georgetown Street in downtown Crystal Springs, the C. H. Parsons House is a one-story frame residence that rests upon a solid brick foundation wall and partial basement. The hipped roof is pierced by two, tall, central brick chimneys and a gabled dormer with Palladian opening is centered above the entrance doorway on the front slope of the roof. The southerly facade is fronted by a full-width gallery that wraps around the easterly side elevation of the house. Fluted Ionic columns, paired to define the entrance, support a full molded entablature with dentiled cornice, and the columns are linked by a railing of turned balusters and molded handrail. A porte cochere with matching millwork extends from the eastern side of the gallery. The three-bay facade features a center-bay doorway flanked by a projecting bay window on the western side and paired windows on the eastern side. All windows of the house are filled with one-over-one, double-hung sash. The entrance doorway consists of a single-leaf door with glazed panel set within sidelights and transom of beveled glass set into wooden muntins that form an interesting pattern of superimposed diamonds and hollow sided rectangles.

The interior floor plan is basically a triple-pile plan with central hallway. All interior door and window surrounds have molded architrave surrounds, the doors have two molded panels, and the bases are unmolded. The central hallway is divided into front and back halls by a transomed doorway filled by a door with beveled-mirror panel that increases the sense of space in the front hallway. The front hallway is visually divided into three spaces by an arch supported by Ionic columns and a partition wall with unfilled doorway that creates a small vestibule in front of the doorway with beveled-mirror panel. The hallway features a wainscoting of molded panels and a mantel piece with scroll supports. The parlor on the westerly side of the hallway is separated from the hallway and the dining room by sliding doors. A well detailed mantel piece with an entablature supported by paired fluted Ionic columns and a large built-in over-mantel mirror is the focal point of the parlor. The dining room, which also has an elaborate Colonial Revival mantel piece with over-mantel mirror and leaded-glass compartments, is further enlivened by a coffered ceiling with molded beams, wall panels created by vertical wood strips and a molded plate rail, and a built-in china cabinet with leaded-glass and molded panel doors. A small passage, which originally contained the ice box and a work shelf, separates the dining room from the kitchen. The integrity of the kitchen, a room usually remodeled many times during the life of a residence, is outstanding. The kitchen retains its original corner sink, patterned ceramic tile floor, built-in china cabinet, tapered-leg work table, and wall and ceiling treatment of applied wooden strips with a high chair rail.

The easterly side of the house has a range of rooms, planned as bedrooms and an office. The bedrooms are more plainly trimmed than the parlor and dining room but still contain well detailed Colonial Revival mantel pieces. The half bath of the front bedroom and the principal bathroom both contain their original plumbing fixtures and ceramic tile floors. The principal bathroom also retains its original skylight and wall lighting fixtures.

The interior and exterior integrity of the residence is outstanding and includes the preservation of the unpainted millwork and the survival of all but one original lighting fixture. The only alteration to the house is the enclosure of a portion of the side porch and the rear porch. Both enclosures were sympathetically accomplished without loss of original columns or other millwork. The nominated property includes two outbuildings in the rear yard. An original carriage house with pyramidal roof, dentiled cornice, and shed-roof rear addition is located northeast of the house, and a one-story shed-roof frame building is located northwest of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** Overstreet and Spencer, Jackson, Mississippi

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The C. H. Parsons House is a locally significant example of Colonial Revival residential architecture. A sophisticated one-story residence with a high degree of interior finish, the house was constructed in 1912 (C. H. Parsons Papers, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Evans, Crystal Springs, Mississippi) and is one of the earliest known examples of the work of the architectural firm of Overstreet and Spencer of Jackson, Mississippi. The significance of the house is greatly enhanced by its association with the Overstreet and Spencer firm, by the survival of the original plans and correspondence associated with its construction, and by its outstanding architectural integrity. Noah Webster Overstreet, whose architectural firms received national and international recognition for designs for institutional and public buildings (Biographical Index, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson), was a practicing architect in Jackson from 1912 until his retirement in 1969 (Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973, p. 10). Not only is Overstreet regarded as Mississippi's most prolific designer, with over 650 projects credited to his firms (Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973, p. 10), but he is also considered to have been one of the most outstanding architects in the state during the first half of the twentieth century. Among the award-winning buildings associated with Overstreet firms are Bailey Junior High School in Jackson and the Columbia Junior High School in Columbia, Mississippi. After graduating in 1910 with a degree in architectural engineering from the University of Illinois, Overstreet worked two years in Urbana, Illinois, before returning in 1912 to his native Mississippi to establish an architectural firm in Jackson (The Clarion-Ledger, December 19, 1968, p. 11). Owned by the Parsons family until 1983, the architectural integrity of the house is remarkable and includes the survival of all original millwork, light fixtures, ceramic kitchen and bathroom floors, plumbing fixtures, hardware, and an original skylight in the principal bathroom. C. H. Parsons was one of the entrepreneurs of the Mississippi lumber industry which flourished in the early twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Evans. C. H. Parsons Papers.
Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973.

Miller, Mary Warren, preservation consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation. In-
spection of C. H. Parsons House, February 29, 1984. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Crystal Springs, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is situated in the City of Crystal Springs and is described as lot 8, South $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 2, and the South 20 feet of lot 5, all situated in square 9, Stowell Map on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Copiah County, Mississippi.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date March 7, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 6, 1984

For HCRS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

9-7-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Parsons House, Copiah County, Mississippi

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page 1

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Biographical Index. Noah
Webster Overstreet.

The Clarion-Ledger, December 19, 1968.



PARSONS HOUSE

Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Mississippi

Looking northerly, the southerly
facade of the Parsons House.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Founda-
tion, February 1984 (Roll 244.2)

Photo 1 of 5



PARSONS HOUSE

Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Mississippi

Looking northerly, the entrance hallway
with mirrored door at rear of front hall.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Founda-
tion, February 1984 (Roll 244.19)

Photo 2 of 5



PARSONS HOUSE

Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Mississippi

Looking northeasterly, the front parlor
with view into entrance hallway and dining
room.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Founda-
tion, February 1984 (Roll 244.21)

Photo 3 of 5



PARSONS HOUSE

Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Mississippi

Looking easterly, the hipped-roof garage and shed-roof rear addition.

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, February 1984 (Roll 244.12)

Photo 4 of 5



PARSONS HOUSE

Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Mississippi

Looking westerly, the shed roof outbuilding
to the rear of the house.

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Founda-
tion, February 1984 (Roll 244.13)

Photo 5 of 5