

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 17 1985

date entered MAY 16 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic John F. Cates House

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number Mississippi Highway 22

N/A not for publication

city, town Brownsville ☒ vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Hinds code 49

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	N/A being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Marcus Charles Hammack

street & number Route 2, Box 110

city, town Bolton ☒ vicinity of state Mississippi**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Hinds County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Raymond state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1984 ☐ 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

Amid rolling hills in northwest Hinds County, Mississippi, is the community of Brownsville. The John F. Cates House, facing south on a tree shaded overlook, one mile east of Brownsville on Mississippi Highway 22, is the community's only remaining antebellum structure.

The Cates House, built ca. 1859, is a well-executed variation of the Greek Revival cottage built throughout Mississippi in the antebellum years. Basically, the structure is a one-and-one-half story, five-bay, side-gabled residence with one remaining exterior chimney, and has a full-width, shed-roofed gallery across the front facade. The interior employs the central-hall, double-pile plan.

The frame cottage, with board-and-batten siding on the front facade and rear elevation, and shiplap siding on the east and west elevations (ca. 1954), is raised on a low, brick, pier-type foundation and has an early-twentieth-century gallery addition that replaced the central, one-bay, pedimented portico original to the house. The gallery has rectangular wooden half-columns (with simple, molded capitals) atop brick piers, showing the bungalow influence on twentieth-century rural architecture. The centered entrance consists of a pair of paneled doors flanked by sidelights and capped by a transom. The entrance is contained within a shouldered architrave frontispiece. Flanking the entrance are two pairs of six-over-six, double-hung windows with matching architraves.

The rear elevation features a five-bay, shed-roofed, L-shaped gallery that was a mid-twentieth-century addition. The gallery is supported by slender wooden columns and extends around the east elevation, terminating at a modern bathroom which replaced the original shed-roofed side porch.

Notable interior features of this dwelling include eight-foot, paneled, single-leaf doors; tongue-and-groove, random-width pine floors; and a mixture of original pilastered and shouldered-architrave mantels. The simple molded door and window architraves are identical in each room, except in the parlor, which has shouldered architraves and molded cornices; there is a paneled apron between each parlor window sill and baseboard.

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 ca. 1859, 1863 **Builder/Architect** John F. Cates

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cates House is of architectural significance as the sole surviving antebellum structure in the community of Brownsville. It is also significant as the site of a Civil War skirmish on the Canton Road (present-day Mississippi Highway 22) in October of 1863.

John F. Cates (b. 1809), attracted to the fertile farmland of Mississippi from his native North Carolina in the early 1830s, was a successful farmer who eventually acquired several parcels of land, increasing his holdings from 40 acres in 1834 (Hinds Co., Miss., Deed Book 5:583) to 725 acres in 1860 by which time he had a slave force of 28 (Slave inhabitant, and production of agriculture schedules, Hinds Co., Miss., 1860). Cates built his Greek Revival cottage ca. 1859 after purchasing the surrounding tract of land (Hinds Co., Miss., Deed Book 26:149-150), and it became the home of his only surviving child, Anderson Bradley Cates, and his wife, Abbie Doxi Brown, after their marriage in 1860. The younger Cates died in 1884, and his wife in 1940 (Marcus C. Hammack, owner, inspection of Brownsville, Miss., cemetery).

On October 14, 1863, after the fall of Vicksburg in July, Federal forces numbering approximately 8,000 men, under the command of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, embarked from Vicksburg on a reconnaissance mission and sought to create a diversion in the direction of Canton (Lt. Col. Robert N. Scott, Third U.S. Artillery, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890], Series I, Vol. 30, Part 2, p. 802). On the afternoon of October 15, after driving about 50 Confederate cavalymen through and out of Brownsville earlier in the day, the Federal forces proceeded east and encountered the Confederates on the Canton Road, one mile east of Brownsville, and a skirmish ensued from Brownsville toward Canton until dark (Scott, I, 30, pt. 2, p. 803). Cates family tradition maintained that a skirmish had taken place around the house during the Civil War and that Federal forces had encamped on the grounds (Clara Belle Hammack Burgess and Dollie Hammack Burgess, granddaughters of Abbie D. Brown Cates, interviewed by Marcus C. Hammack, owner, at Brownsville, Miss., January, 1977). The Scott reports cited above further document this account by placing the skirmish on the Canton Road one mile east of Brownsville (in front of the Cates House) on October 15, and a 1,500-man cavalry unit encamped in the same location on the evening of the 15th (Scott, I, 30, pt. 2, pp. 809-810). Family tradition maintained that during this skirmish the corbeled cap of the one present-day chimney on the Cates

9. Major Bibliographical References

Burgess, Clara Belle Hammack and Burgess, Dollie Hammack, granddaughters of Abbie D. Brown Cates. Interviewed by Marcus C. Hammack, owner, at Brownsville, Miss., January, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Brownsville, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property, sufficient in size to encompass the house and its immediate surroundings, forms a four-sided figure with right-angle corners and equal sides of 200 feet each with the center being the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The sides of the figure are parallel to the walls

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries of the house.

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marcus Charles Hammack, owner

organization N/A

date December 16, 1984

street & number Route 2, Box 110

telephone (601) 866-7458

city or town Bolton

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 9, 1985

For NPS use only

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

for Melissa Byers
Entered in the
National Register

date 5-16-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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John F. Cates House, Hinds County,

Continuation sheet Mississippi

Item number 8, 9

Page 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

House was blown off by an artillery round (Burgess). The fighting continued for several days until the Federal command deduced that there was no way to surround the enemy due to their superior knowledge of the area. The Confederate cavalry and infantry were receiving reinforcements, and since the cavalry force was one-third larger and much better in quality than the Federal cavalry, the Federals returned to Vicksburg (Scott, I, 30, pt. 2, p. 806).

The community of Brownsville today is in marked contrast to the once-thriving town of Brownsville in the mid-to-late-nineteenth century. Although it experienced a great rush of settlement and construction after Mississippi's statehood in 1817 most of its mid-nineteenth-century buildings were abandoned and ultimately lost when, in the early-twentieth century, a substantial part of the population gravitated toward the state capital of Jackson twenty-five miles away. The Cates House is a fine example of the type of cottage built in this area by small farmers in the antebellum years, and is the community's only remaining antebellum structure. This home has remained in the family for six generations and is now being sensitively maintained by the present owner.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hammack, Marcus C., owner. Inspection of Brownsville, Miss., cemetery,
November 10, 1984.

Hinds Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 5, 26.

Scott, Lt. Col. Robert N., Third U.S. Artillery. The War of the Rebellion:
A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.
Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890, Series I, Volume 30, Part 2.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Slave Inhabitant and Production of
Agriculture Schedules, Hinds Co., Miss., 1860.



John F. Cates House, Mississippi Highway 22
front elevation, view to north

Brownsville Community, Hinds County,
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Marcus C. Hammack

November, 1984

Photo 1 of 5



John F. Cates House, Mississippi Highway 22
east elevation, view to west

Brownsville Community, Hinds County,
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Marcus C. Hammack

November, 1984

Photo 2 of 5



John F. Cates House, Mississippi Highway 22
west elevation, view to east

Brownsville Community, Hinds County,
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Marcus C. Hammack

November, 1984

Photo 3 of 5



John F. Cates House, Mississippi Highway 22
parlor, view to south

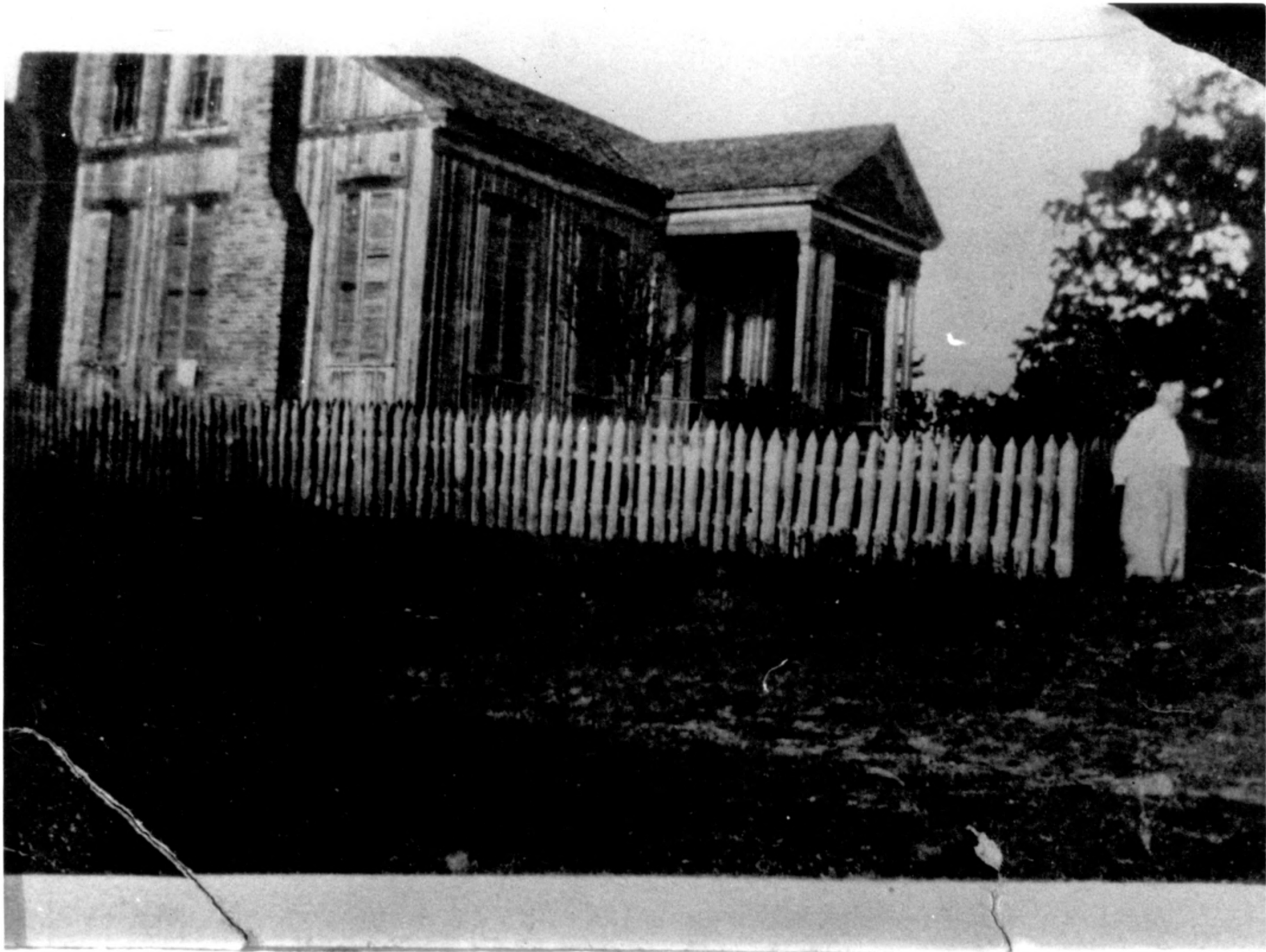
Brownsville Community, Hinds County,
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Marcus C. Hammack

November, 1984

Photo 4 of 5



John F. Cates House, Mississippi Highway 22,
southwest elevation, view to northeast
Brownsville Community, Hinds County,
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

Photographer Unknown

Ca. 1900

Photo 5 of 5