

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 697478  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 14 1979

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAR 28 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cedar Grove Place

AND/OR COMMON

The Cedars

### 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

MS 553  
Mississippi Highway 553

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

63

### 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 George S. Hamilton

STREET &amp; NUMBER

The Cedars, Mississippi Highway 553

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

— VICINITY OF

STATE  
Mississippi 39055

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 145

CITY, TOWN

Fayette

STATE  
Mississippi 39069

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE  
Mississippi 39205

# 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

Cedar Grove Place is situated on a 120-acre tract along Mississippi Highway 553 in Church Hill. The picturesque landscape of the property includes cedar, live oak, pear, and pecan trees in rolling fields located along the highway and the curved drive to the house. A gable-roof stable, now deteriorated, is located two hundred feet northeast of the house.

The frame dwelling consists of a two-and-a-half-story gable-roof Greek Revival front section adjoining a one-story gable-roof rear section typical in form of a late-Federal farmhouse. The facade (east elevation) of the front section is defined by a double-tiered undercut gallery set with fluted Doric columns on square bases. A prominent entablature is embellished with a modillioned cornice and a paneled pedimented parapet. The exterior wall of the five-bay facade is set in rusticated siding and punctuated by twelve-light jib windows with cornices. Frontispieces on first and second floors are framed with paneled pilasters and Doric columns set in antis. The two-bay north and south elevations of the front section feature a Palladian window in each gable end. The one-story rear section is joined to the front section by the enclosure of a shed-roof porch along the former facade (east elevation) of the rear section. The porch, set with square columns, also wraps around north and south elevations of the new section and is partially enclosed on the north side. The five-bay rear or west elevation features twelve-over-twelve-light windows and a central entrance with side lights and transom.

The single-pile center-hall plan of the front section is varied with the addition of a cross hall formed from the enclosed porch of the rear section, with a double-run stair rising from the south side of the cross hall to the second-floor center hall. Woodwork features on the first floor include sliding doors, door and window architraves enriched with crossettes, and mantelpieces with Greek Doric columns supporting an entablature and shelf. The parlor (north room) has gilt window cornices, and the parlor, hall, and dining room (south room) have plaster ceiling cornices and centerpieces. Each of the two chambers on the second floor has a marbilized mantelpiece with paneled pilasters. A double-run stair on the west side of the second-floor center hall leads to the attic. The rear section contains four rooms with a center hall. Doors and windows are trimmed in the Greek Revival style with symmetrical architraves with corner blocks. Mantelpieces are pilastered in the two east rooms and columned in the two west rooms.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 ca. 1830, ca. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cedar Grove Place reflects a transition from a small-scale vernacular farmhouse to a classically inspired Greek Revival form and provides an explicit representation of the stylistic evolution that occurred in Mississippi between 1820 and 1860. The house also attests to the increasing prosperity of the Church Hill area in the period before the Civil War. The property has acquired additional significance during the twentieth century as the residence of author Josephine Balfour Payne from 1938 to 1972, and as the residence of actor George Hamilton since 1978.

Cedar Grove Place was originally one of several parcels of land in a 1,087-acre tract known as Plains Plantation and owned by Joseph Dunbar, an attorney from Church Hill (Jefferson Co., Miss., Deed Book F:312). Said to have been constructed by Col. James Gillam Wood for his daughter Mary Louisa Shields (Rosa Johnston Miller, genealogical sketch of the James Gillam Wood family, Statewide Survey of Historic Sites, Oak Grove, Jefferson County, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson), the one-story farmhouse was built ca. 1830 and a porch was added ca. 1840. David Hunt, one of the founders of Oakland College (1830) and a wealthy landowner and planter of the region, acquired Plains Plantation in 1846 (Deed Book F:780). He sold the entire tract in 1854 to Benjamin D. Beavin (Deed Book I:21), who owned the house for nineteen years and was responsible for the construction of the front section ca. 1855, described in a later deed transaction as the "new upright part of house" (Deed Book 00:92). After Beavin's death, in 1873, the 120-acre parcel called Cedar Grove Place and described as a portion of Plains Plantation was sold to Adaline N. Balch of Church Hill (Deed Book BB:163).

In 1938 Cedar Grove Place was purchased by Earl W. and Josephine Balfour Payne (Deed Book 4-I:210). Josephine Payne wrote children's stories, for which her daughter Joan drew illustrations. Mother and daughter collaborated on the publication of The Little Green Island (1942), Once There Was Olga (1944), The Last Giant (1947), all published by Putnam, and The Stable That Stayed (1952) and The Journey of Josiah Tall-tatters (1953), both published by Ariel Books. Josephine Balfour Payne sold Cedar Grove Place to Jane A. Warren in 1972 (Deed Book 5-Q:72).

Architecturally, the front section of Cedar Grove Place is a fine essay in the Greek Revival style, with frontispieces and doors trimmed in the manner of Lefever (The Beauties of Modern Architecture [New York: De Capo Press, 1968], pls. 6, 14). Further, the juxtaposing of the academically inspired Greek Revival front section with the less formal farmhouse provides a striking contrast and an appealing sense of historical continuity in the property. The architectural significance of the house is enhanced by its setting, with fruit trees, cedars, and oaks defining the boundaries of the property along State Highway 553 and providing a dramatic screen for the surrounding fields.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

Flowers, Paul. "Mother and Daughter Team." Commercial Appeal, Aug. 14, 1977.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 120

QUADRANGLE NAME Fayette

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:6250

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 6,6,5,9,1,0 3,5,0,9,6,1,0

B 1,5 6,6,7,0,2,5 3,5,0,9,8,0,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,5 6,6,5,8,7,5 3,5,0,8,9,7,5

D 1,5 6,6,7,0,5,0 3,5,0,9,6,0,0

E                              

F                              

G                              

H                              

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

"The following described tract and parcel of land with all buildings and improvements thereon lying, situate and being in the County of Jefferson, in the State

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack A. Gold, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

January, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

*John A. Hilliard*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
*[Signature]*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3-28-79

DATE

3/27/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd)

Gold, Jack A., architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Inspection of Cedar Grove Place, Jefferson Co., Miss., Nov. 25, 1978.

Jefferson County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books F, I, BB, OO, Y, 4-I, 5-Q, 5-W, 5-X, 6-A.

Lafever, Minard. The Beauties of Modern Architecture. Reprint. New York: DeCapo Press, 1968.

Miller, Rosa Johnston. Geneological sketch of the James Gillam Wood family. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Jefferson Co. Oak Grove.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Subject File. Church Hill.

\_\_\_\_\_. Josephine Balfour Payne.

10. Verbal Boundary Description (cont'd)

of Mississippi, to-wit:

All that certain tract and parcel of land formerly known as "The Cedars" and now known as "North Wales" which was conveyed by Mrs. Jeannie L. Bisland to Earl W. Payne on April 1, 1938, by deed in Deed Book 4-I, at page 210 of the deed records of Jefferson County, Mississippi, and which property is described in said deed as follows:

All that certain tract of land, formerly the Bevins property, known as "The Cedars" situated at or near Church Hill in the County of Jefferson, State of Mississippi, containing one hundred and twenty (120) acres of land, more or less, and bounded as follows: On the North by lands of Mrs. Maria L. Shields, on the East by the Washington and Church Hill Road, on the South by "Auburn Hall" Plantation formerly of Johnston and on the west by "Wyolah" Plantation of the estate of Reddy and by lands of Mrs. Maria L. Shields.

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10. Verbal Boundary Description (cont'd)

SAVING AND EXCEPTING from the above described property a tract of land containing 1.9 acres, more or less, located on the easterly side of Mississippi Highway 553 and shown on a plat of survey made by Richard T. Logan, P.E., dated October 29, 1976, recorded in Deed Book 5-X, Page 176, Jefferson County, Mississippi.

ALSO SAVING AND EXCEPTING from the property hereinabove described all oil, gas and other minerals lying in, on or under same. The property hereinabove described is the same property conveyed by Thomas J. O'Quinn, Jr., et ux, to H. Hal Garner and H.C. Hawkins by deed dated January 13, 1977, recorded in Deed Book 5-X, Page 209, of the records of Jefferson County, Mississippi.

There is also hereby SAVED, EXCEPTED, and RESERVED unto the Grantors herein all of that part and portion of the above described property containing 19.7 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the most Southwesterly corner of Cedars Plantation for 1650 feet, more or less, to the East Right-of-Way of public road known as Wyolah Road;; thence follow East Right-of-Way of said Road in a Northeasterly direction for 220 feet, more or less, to a point where the Northwesterly line of Cedars Plantation intersects said East Right-of-Way of Wyolah Road; thence follow Northwest property line of Cedars Plantation in a Northeasterly direction for 300 feet, more or less, to a large bayou or creek that runs South-Southeast through Cedars Plantation; thence follow said bayou in a Southerly direction for 2600 feet, more or less, to a point where said bayou intersects the Southerly line of Cedars Plantation; thence follow said Southerly property line of Cedars Plantation in a Southwesterly direction for 610 feet, more or less, to the Southwesterly corner of Cedars Plantation and returning to point of beginning."



CEDAR GROVE PLACE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
South and west (rear) elevations; view to the  
northeast.

Photo 2 of 5

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CEDAR GROVE PLACE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

West (rear) elevation; view to the east.

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CEDAR GROVE PLACE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Mantelpiece in north parlor of front section;  
view to the north.

Photo 4 of 5

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CEDAR GROVE PLACE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Stable; view to the north.

Photo 5 of 5

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MAR 28 1979





CEDAR GROVE PLACE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

November, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Facade (east elevation); view to the

northwest.

Photo 1 of 5

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