

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPHO 689 611
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1978

DATE ENTERED FEB 22 1979

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

Oak Grove

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Grove

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

MS
State Route 553

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

028

COUNTY

Jefferson

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. Henry C. Brandt

STREET & NUMBER

Oak Grove, Box 553

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39055

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Chancery Clerk, Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 145

CITY, TOWN

Fayette

STATE

Mississippi 39069

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

___ 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

Oak Grove is dramatically situated on a rural casually landscaped fifty-acre tract that is dotted with majestic moss-draped cedars. Located adjacent to Christ Episcopal Church, a regionally significant Gothic Revival structure built in 1858 on a prominent lot at the intersection of the Pine Ridge and Washington roads, the house and church form the center of the tiny rural community of Church Hill. Incorporating an earlier two-story frame house with a double-tiered inset gallery and stylistically dating from the late 1820s, the present structure is a handsomely proportioned and richly detailed dwelling that reflects both late Federal and Greek Revival design preferences. The five-bay facade, or eastern elevation, is sheltered by a double-tiered inset gallery set with Tuscan columns and a robustly turned balustrade. Surrounding the distinctive eight-panel central entrance door is an extremely elegant Grecian frontispiece with freestanding Doric columns and engaged columns carrying a broken entablature. A transom with a typical Grecian muntin arrangement is set in a paneled jamb above the entablature, and the entire composition is surrounded by a molded backband. A similar but less elaborate frontispiece is used on the second level.

The northern and southern end elevations of the double-pile house feature a broken gable-roof profile and twin exterior end chimneys with single-stepped shoulders, strongly recalling the building tradition of the original family's native Tidewater Maryland. A two-story chimney-pent links the chimneys on the northern end.

The rear, or western, elevation presents the clearest evidence of the growth of the house, since the original double-tiered gallery is balanced by an ingenious mock gallery that attempts to treat the larger, later addition as an extension of the gallery, thus keeping the mass of the house somewhat symmetrical. Louvered blinds, alternated with twelve-over-twelve light windows on the first level, serve as the sheathing of the addition. The central bay on the first level has been enclosed with a simple tripartite frontispiece and an additional pair of blinds. Fenestration in the northern original portion of the elevation is asymmetrical in both size and placement.

A diminutive hip-roofed structure believed to have once been a separate outbuilding is now attached to the north side of the house by a small clapboarded hyphen connecting to the chimney-pent. The central entrance of the three-bay facade features a pilastered frontispiece with a Greek meander. An exterior end chimney is centered on the northern wall, replacing an earlier window.

The interior of the central-hall double-pile main dwelling offers an interesting combination of elegant and sophisticated detailing in both the Federal and Greek Revival modes. Although extensively "updated" with Greek Revival woodwork when the house was enlarged, the rooms in the original, or northern, section of the house retain their handsome elaborately carved Adamesque mantels, with that in the northwest room preserving its imitation granite paint treatment.

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/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the "Maryland Settlement" area of rural Jefferson County at the tiny hamlet of Church Hill (named for the first Episcopal congregation in the state), Oak Grove stands as one of the most complete and distinctive country residences in southwestern Mississippi. It was built in two stages (the first of which was executed ca. 1828-30) for Jane Wood Payne (1807-1877) and her husband, James Payne (1807-1853), on land purchased in 1812 (Deed Book C1: 15) by the locally prominent Wood family, who emigrated to Mississippi from Maryland in 1811. The house has as its nucleus a two-story vernacular dwelling featuring a side-hall plan, enclosed staircase, superb carved Adamesque mantels that rank among the finest in the state, and regionally unique exterior end chimneys linked by a chimney-pent. Prior to James Payne's death in 1853, the house was enlarged and extensively remodelled with varied and richly detailed plasterwork and woodwork in the prevailing Greek Revival style. Owned by three generations of the Wood family until purchased by the present owner in 1973 (Deed Book 5R:264), the house stands in a remarkably complete state of preservation which includes original door hardware, paint colors, and grained woodwork.

Colonel James Gillam Wood (1770-1845) was one of the earliest residents of the "Maryland Settlement" and a successful planter with extensive land holdings. He became something of the patriarchal head of the "refined, wealthy and populous community" (Natchez Courier, June 18, 1845), building four of its major houses for himself and his children. Wood's impressive residence, Auburn Hall, was completely destroyed by a tornado in 1908, but the Cedars, Woodland, and Oak Grove survive, with Oak Grove being the most architectonic. (Statement, Rosa Johnston Miller, October 3, 1932).

Initially set on a 110-acre tract (Probate Book C:621), the property passed from Jane Wood Payne to her daughter Maria Louisa Payne Shields, who in turn willed it to her daughter Lula Shields (1866-1967), who resided in the house for 101 years. The present owner purchased the house and fifty acres from the heirs in 1973 and effected an exemplary restoration of the house and the two remaining outbuildings.

(See revised paragraph #3, Amendment, Statement of Significance on Continuation Sheet 2, page 2.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jefferson County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books C1, 5R.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi. Statewide Survey File. Oak Grove. Typescript statement by Rosa Johnston Miller (granddaughter of Colonel James G. Wood), October 3, 1932.

Natchez, Mississippi. Courier. June 18, 1845.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 50 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Fayette, Mississippi

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15

UTM REFERENCES

UTM REFERENCES	UTM REFERENCES	UTM REFERENCES	UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D 1,5	6,6,6,8,5,0	3,5,1,0,0,0,5	A 1,5	6,6,6,9,9,5	3,5,0,9,9,5
B 1,5	6,6,7,0,5,0	3,5,0,9,5,7,5	C 1,5	6,6,6,5,0,0	3,5,0,9,2,5,0
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A nearly 50 acre tract of land lying south of the Christ Church property at the intersection of Pine Ridge and Washington roads. Fronts approximately 375 meters on Washington Road on the east, 900 meters on Pine Ridge Road on the west, and on the south by a diagonal line

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

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

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 ☒ 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

Elmer A. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

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

DATE 2-22-79

DATE

2-22-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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7 - DESCRIPTION

The graciously proportioned central hall is elaborately embellished with a plaster cornice featuring egg and dart and rinceau foliated bands. The distinctive hall frontispiece is flanked by shallow closets, the upper doors of which are glazed with the same hollow-corner lights as the side lights. The double parlors in the southern addition are individually detailed in the chaste Grecian fashion. The front, or southeast, parlor is adorned with the same plaster cornice utilized in the central hall; a foliated centerpiece identical to the one found in the central hall of the ca. 1834 Presbyterian Manse in nearby Natchez; and full-length splayed paneled jambs surrounding the twelve-over-twelve light windows and corresponding spandrels. The rear, or southwest, parlor has as its focal points a handsome Renaissance Revival centerpiece and ingenious paneled shutters set between the windows. Both parlors have variegated marble post-and-lintel Grecian mantels. Various patterns of Greek Revival architraves with endblocks are used throughout the first level, and two enclosed staircases, one rising from the northwest chamber in the original section and the other from the now enclosed rear gallery, service the second level. Much simpler in detailing, the upper floor plan echoes that of the first excepting the central hall, which is divided into two rooms.

A small gable-roofed three-bay school house and a two-bay quarter with an inset gallery are located to the northwest of the main house.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

connecting the southermost point of the two road frontages, and fully described in Jefferson County Deed Book 5R:264.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

Oak Grove

#8. Statement of Significance. (Revised paragraph #3). Amendment.

The property passed from Jane Wood Payne to her daughter Maria Louisa Payne Shields, who in turn willed it to her daughter Lula Shields (1886-1967), who resided in the house for 101 years. The present owners purchased the house and the fifty remaining acres of the original 110-acre tract historically associated with the house from the heirs in 1973 and effected an exemplary restoration of the house and the two remaining outbuildings.



OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary Shoemaker

June, 1978

FEB 22 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

East (facade) and south elevation of quar-
ters. From the southeast

JAN 17 1979

#1 of 7



OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

June, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

Northern and western (rear) elevations,
looking southeast.

Photo 2 of 7

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OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

June, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

Interior: detail of frontispiece at eastern
end of central hall, looking east.

Photo 3 of 3

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OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

June, 1978

FEB 22 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

Interior: northeast chamber in original
section, looking north.

Photo 4 of 7.

NOV 7 1978



OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

FEB 22 1979

June, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

Interior: southwest chamber in Greek Revival
addition, looking southwest.

Photo 5 of 4

NOV 7 1978



OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary Shoemaker

June, 1978

FEB 22 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

East (facade) and south elevation of school
house. From the southeast.

#6 of 7

JAN 17 1979



OAK GROVE

Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

June, 1978

FEB 22 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives

and History

Facade or eastern elevation, looking

northwest
Photo 7 of 7

NOV 7 1978