NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 30 1985
date entered OCT 31

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

1. Name

historic Oliver House

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number A little over a mile southwest of Moscow at the intersecion of an unmarked county road and the De Kalb to Union Rd. NA not for publication

city, town Moscow X vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Kemper County code 69

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Gilbert L. Oliver

street & number 4104 Finley Street

city, town Gulfport NA vicinity of state Mississippi 39501

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town De Kalb state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1978 ___ federal X 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	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date NA
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the southeastern corner of the crossroads of an unmarked county road with the De Kalb to Union Road, a little more than a mile southwest of Moscow, the Oliver House is a one-story, clapboard, dog-trot residence that rests upon brick foundation piers. Outside-end brick chimneys, now missing, originally flanked the broken slope gabled roof, which overhangs the gable ends of the house and is trimmed by raking boards with two fascias. A molded box cornice with corner returns extends across the front and rear elevations of the house. The northwesterly facade of the house features a recessed central porch, or loggia, flanked by single-bay cabinet rooms. These small rooms are accessed from the porch, which has molded box columns and scroll brackets attached to the columns and porch corner boards. The center bay of the facade is an open passage, or dog-trot, that is narrower than the porch and is flanked by a single window, which, like all windows of the house, has an unmolded board surround and is filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash. Many of the original exterior shutter blinds have been removed and stored. Exterior walls protected by the porch and all interior walls are finished in horizontal tongue-and-groove baords with no base-board. Doorway openings have unmolded board surrounds and single-leaf doors with four, fielded and molded panels. A large front room and smaller rear room are located on each side of the dog-trot passage. All rooms of the house are identically and plainly finished with an original, wooden pilastered mantel piece in the large western room. An original gabled-roof wing with molded box cornice and corner returns extends from the rear eastern room. The most unusual and finely executed feature of the house is the ornamental painting dating from the 1890's. The parlor, or western large room, is the most elaborately decorated with painted panels, wainscoting, baseboard, and architrave, as well as a painted centerpiece and echoing corner motifs. The open passage and master bedroom, or eastern large room, have painted wainscoting and base-boards like the parlor, but the walls and ceilings are more simply painted with an impressionistic marble on the passage walls and over the mantel piece in the master bedroom. The architectural integrity of the Oliver House is oustanding with the only alteration being the removal of the outside-end brick chimneys. No original outbuildings have survived.

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	X art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1865-85 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oliver House is one of Mississippi's unique residential expressions of nineteenth-century vernacular architecture. The significance of the house is based on its unaltered dog-trot form, its overall architectural integrity, its long history of family ownership, and its remarkable decorative painting. The Oliver House was standing by 1885, the year it was acquired by Dr. Algernon Sidney Oliver, a dentist and farmer in rural Kemper County (Oliver House, Kemper Co., Statewide Survey of Historic Sites, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson), and it was probably constructed between 1865 and 1885. The wide board surrounds of window and doorway openings, the elongated proportions of the windows, the gable-end roof overhang, the style of doors and hardware, and the bracketed columns with molded neck bands all testify to a post-Civil War construction date. Information in the files of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History indicates that the decorative painting probably dates to ca. 1893 and was the work of an itinerant German artist named Mayer. When the department purchased a painted ceiling from the demolished Cole House in the late 1970's, information was obtained from interviews within the county that the Cole House, the Oliver House, and the Shotts House, all in Kemper County, were painted by an itinerant artist named Mayer. The Oliver family has recorded that the work was done by an unnamed German artist who lived with the family for many months and that the same artist also worked on the neighboring Cole House (Oliver House). After the death of Dr. Algernon Sidney Oliver, the house became the residence of his son, the Reverend Algernon S. Oliver. The house is today owned by the late Reverend Oliver's children who manage a timber farm on the surrounding acreage and have a caretaker living in the house. Despite the loss of the brick chimneys, the integrity of the Oliver House is exceptional and includes the survival of all, late nineteenth-century, painted decoration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Miller, Mary W., preservation consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez, Mississippi. Inspection of Oliver House on August 29, 1985.

Missippi Department of Archives and History. State Survey of History Sites. Kemper County. Oliver House.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 8 acres

Quadrangle name Moscow, Miss. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	329870	3619490	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with the southeastern and southwestern boundary lines perpendicular and forming a right angle at their point of intersection. The northeastern and northwestern boundary lines are roughly perpendicular and each extends 600 feet from their point of junction at the

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

state	code	county	code
NA			
NA			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation **date** August 4, 1985

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 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 Kenneth H. P'Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **date** September 26, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

for Helen Byers **date** 10-31-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

intersection of an unmarked county road and the Dekalb to Union road. The northeastern boundary extends in a southeasterly direction along the southerly side of the unmarked county road for a distance of approximately 600 feet and is roughly parallel to the southwestern boundary line. The northwestern boundary extends in a southwesterly direction along the southerly side of the Dekalb to Union Road for a distance of approximately 600 feet and is roughly parallel to the southwestern boundary line. The total nominated acreage is slightly more than eight acres. The nominated acreage is located totally within section 24, Range 14 E, Township 10 N.

OLIVER HOUSE
Moscow, Kemper County, Mississippi

Looking southeasterly, the northwesterly facade

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, September 1985

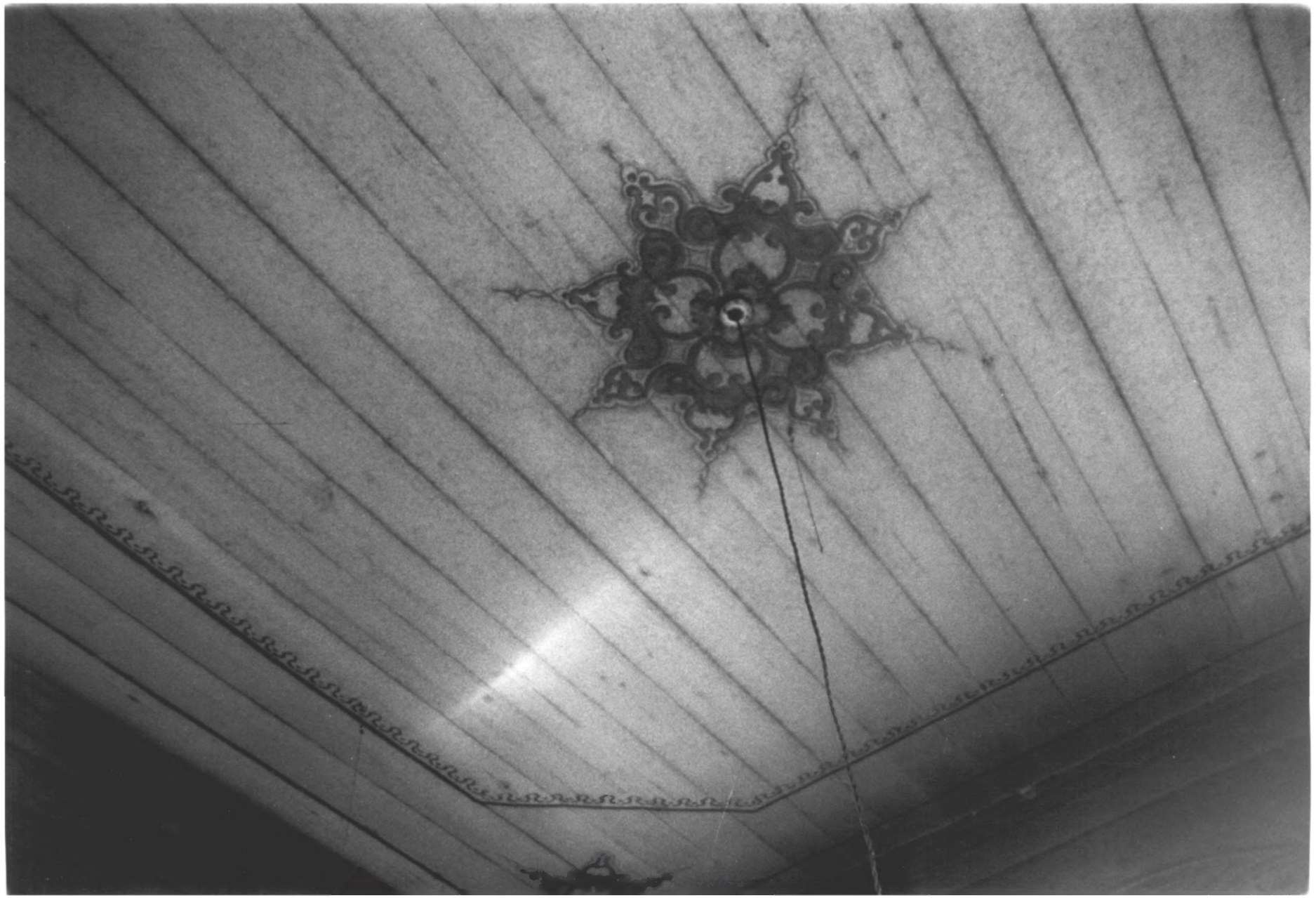
Photo 1 of 4

OLIVER HOUSE
Moscow, Kemper County, Mississippi

Looking northwesterly at the open passage walls

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, September 1985

Photo 2 of 4



OLIVER HOUSE
Moscow, Kemper County, Mississippi

Looking southwesterly at the parlor (western front room) ceiling

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, September 1985

Photo 3 of 4

OLIVER HOUSE
Moscow, Kemper County, Mississippi

Looking southeasterly at the parlor (western front room) walls and ceiling

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation, September 1985

Photo 4 of 4