NPS Form 10-900 **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property Historic Emma and Ed Rogers House
Other names/site number:
Name of related multiple property listing:
<u>N/A</u>
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing
2. Location
Street & number: <u>Longview Road</u>
City or town: <u>Starkville</u> State: <u>MS</u> County: <u>Oktibbeha</u>
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request for determination of eligibility meets</u> the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

__A __B __X C __D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets o	does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ entered in the National Register
- ____ determined eligible for the National Register
- ____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ____ removed from the National Register
- ____ other (explain:) ______

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private:

Public – Local

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Name of Property

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing <u>1</u>	Noncontributing	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>NA</u>

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) _____Work in progress_____

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) Other: Vernacular L-front_____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: <u>wood (Cypress), metal roof corrugated (tin),</u> brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Emma and Ed Rogers house, constructed c.1885, is a three room, one-story, frame L-front vernacular cottage. The house is located on Longview Road, approximately three miles southwest of Starkville, MS on a cleared spot of flat land with large mature trees. A rear addition with a bathroom was added, probably in the 1930s. The site also retains an original well located approximately 50 feet to the northeast rear of the dwelling.

Narrative Description

The Emma and Ed Rogers House is a one-story frame L-front house with an intersecting gable roof. The house rests on a brick pier foundation one to two-feet above the ground. The original detached kitchen is non-extant. A c.1930 addition to the northwest corner now houses a kitchen. The house sits on a large parcel with mature trees off Longview Road in rural Oktibbeha County.

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

Name of Property

Exterior

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The main elevation faces south. The intersecting gable roof is clad in standing seam metal. The walls are clapboard. The gable-front ell projects forward and has broad cornice returns and a centered single 4/4 double –hung wood window with a simple surround. The porch is L-shaped under a shed roof that is supported by square wood posts, not thought to be original as one chamfered post remains in storage at the house. A single-leaf four-panel wood door on the east face of the projecting ell opens into a front room. The south elevation of the side wing is two bays wide. A 4/4 double hung wood window with applied shutters is offset to the east. The main entry, set near the intersecting wing, is a single-leaf replacement door in a simple wood surround with a transom and three-light sidelights set over panels, and leads into the center hall.

A brick chimney is centered on the east elevation. The exterior wall is covered with corrugated metal.

The exterior wall of the north (rear) elevation is clapboard with a board and batten gabled-roof addition to the west. The only opening in the main wing of the house is a door covered with plywood set near the intersection with the addition and serving as the rear entrance to the center hall. The board and batten addition features a single-leaf wood door covered by a screen door on the east face. A small covered opening on the north face was historically used to vent the stove.

The west elevation has three bays. To the north, the board and batten addition has a centered 4/4 double-hung wood window. The clapboard-covered wall of the main house features two similar windows. A single applied shutter remains next to the northern window.

Interior

The primary entrance is from the porch and opens to a center hall that extends all the way to the rear. Two rooms are to the left (west) side of the hall while one is on the right (east) side. The hall's ceiling and east wall are beadboard, and the west wall is plank while the floor has linoleum. Twelve inch base boards are seen throughout the interior. A four panel wood door, covered by plywood on the exterior, is set in the north (rear) wall. An enclosed space for an interior bathroom partially projects into the hall in the northwest corner. Cased openings provide access to the rooms flanking the hall.

The interior door to the room to the east is four-panel wood. There is a beadboard ceiling and paneled walls. A single 4/4 window is set into the south wall. A wood mantle is on the east wall flanked by 4/4 windows. The mantel is simple in design with pilasters supporting a stylized entablature with a zigzag motif.

A replacement door off the hall opens into the back room to the west. An enclosed space in the northeast corner houses a bathroom. The finishes are similar to the room across the hall with a beadboard ceiling, paneled walls and wide baseboards. There is a single 4/4 wood window in the

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west wall. A fireplace with a wood mantel is set in the south wall. A four panel wood door in the south wall opens to the front room on the southwest corner of the house. Another six panel wood door opens off the north wall to the kitchen in the board and batten addition on the northwest corner.

The southwest front room has a four-panel wood door in the east wall that opens to the porch. There are 4/4 windows in the south and west walls. A wood mantel on the north wall shares an interior chimney with the hearth in the connecting room. The mantels in the two west rooms are similar in design with simplified pilasters supporting a stylized entablature. While these fireplaces shared a chimney, it does not appear above the roof line. A small closet with a four panel wood door is set in the north wall.

The kitchen has plasterboard walls. Most of the cabinets and the ceiling have been removed.

Well

The site also retains an original well to the northeast rear of the house that contributes as a structure.

The Rogers House remains a work in progress. The house suffers from deferred maintenance and the ill effects of weather and a fire. The standing seam metal roof was installed in place of a corrugated metal roof by the current owner in 2010. The shed roof of the porch is a reconstruction. The original L-shape of the house remains with the exception of the kitchen addition. The kitchen was added in the 1930s and is the same scale as the house and shows the evolution of rural southern houses that typically had separate kitchen structures but were often modernized in the mid-20th century and has taken on significance in its own right. Although some doors, both exterior and interior, have been replaced, most of the solid wood four panel doors remain in place. The windows are original. Family tradition states that the hall was originally an open dog trot that was enclosed in the 1930s. The only other change in the floor plan is the addition of the bathroom in approximately 1970. Beadboard ceilings, baseboards, window and door surrounds and mantels are original. The Rogers House retains a moderate to high degree of integrity.

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Х

- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

Name of Property

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) ARCHITECTURE Oktibbeha County, Mississippi County and State

Period of Significance

<u>c. 1885</u>

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Name of Property

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi County and State

The Emma and Ed Rogers House is significant at the local level under the National Register Criterion C for association with Architecture as an example of a rural vernacular L-front house in Oktibbeha County.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Ed and Emma Rogers house, constructed circa 1885, is located in Oktibbeha County approximately three miles from the city of Starkville in an area commonly referred to as the Spring Hill Community. The house is located on a cleared spot of flat land with scattered large mature trees. Previously a fig and pecan orchard sat to the west of the dwelling. Longview Road runs east and west in front of the dwelling, with Mississippi Highway 25 running north and south along the side of the property but screened by tress. The nominated plot is part of an original parcel of approximately 200 acres that was used by the African American Rogers family for raising cattle, cultivating potatoes and peanuts, and timberland. Earlier in the 20th century, the family owned and operated a timber sawmill on the back side of the 200 acres. No outbuildings survive.

Ed Rogers was born to George and Emmaline Rogers in Livingston, Alabama. His birth date is unclear, with the 1870 census suggesting a birthdate of 1858¹ while the 1900 census suggests a birthdate in 1863.² According to the 1880 U.S. Census, he was living in Clay County, Mississippi working as a servant/laborer for the Robert Hubbard family. His age is listed as 21 years at that time. The 1890 Census was destroyed by fire.

But by the census of 1900, Ed Rogers was married to Emma Davis. Family records date their marriage to 1879. Emma Davis was older than Ed and was born in Alabama around 1852.³ Family tradition holds that Emma Rogers was a white woman. This is supported in the 1880 U.S. Census Records for the Davis family in Livingston, Alabama, where Emma, listed as white and aged 28 is living in the household of her brother Hugh M. Davis and his wife Azaline.⁴ Later census records record her race as black, but it is not clear whether this was based on enumerator error or self-identification.

¹ 1870 United States Federal Census.

² 1900 United States Federal Census. The 1900 census states that Ed was born in Mississippi, while his father was born in Virginia and his mother was born in Mississippi.

³ Emma Rogers' gravestone shows her birth and death dates as 1855 and October 7, 1956, but this birth date has so far not matched any census records for Emma Davis or Emma Rogers.

⁴ 1880 United States Federal Census. Although the census records for 1880 show the couple living separately, the family's traditional marriage date of 1879 is backed up in the 1900 census, which gives the same date. If this were an inter-racial marriage, it would have had to happen covertly, and the couple would have only been able to live together after finding property in a new location where they were not previously known.

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The exact date that Ed and Emma Rogers acquired the property on Longview Road is not clear. The Rogers are not included in the list of county property tax payers for 1883.⁵ However, family tradition asserts that all of the Rogers children, beginning in the early 1880s, were born on this property. A plat map dated 1909 shows Ed Rogers as the owner of the south half of Section 20, Township 18, Range 13 (see Figure 2).

The Rogers raised chickens and cattle, sold firewood, and maintained a producing pecan and fig orchard. The Oktibbeha County area has consistently been associated up to the present with agriculture in farming, dairy, and cattle production.

Ed and Emma had ten (10) children. Children of this union are listed in the order of birth: Adiena Henry (Husband Jim, 5 children); Eddie Moore (Husband Pete, 2 Children); Early or Earl Rogers (Wife, Delilah Washington, 8 Children); Lillie Jordan (1st Husband, Will Jordan; 2nd Husband, Dock Hoster, 2 children); Roberta Rieves (Husband, D. R.,7 children); Umphery Rogers (Wife, Ella, 2 Children); Bessie Kelly (Husband, Main, 8 children), Ella Outlaw (Husband, Robert, 5 children); Cora Gillespie (Husband, James, 5 Children), David Rogers (0 Children). All survived their parents except two: David was struck by lightning and buried in Plantation Cemetery and another, Umphery (or Umfries), was shot by a policeman in an altercation.

Early or Earl, the third of the siblings, was born on March 23, 1885. According to family tradition and to Emma's gravestone, Emma was 30 years old when Early was born and forty-nine when the youngest, David, was born in 1904. A family picture of five of the family members includes what is believed to be Cora as a toddler and David, the youngest, as a toddler, dating the picture to about 1905. (see Figure 1).

During the 1930s, the Rogers were about to lose portions of the property but their son, Early or Earl, purchased it with a Federal Land Bank Loan. The property now belongs to a great granddaughter, Dr. Peggy Rogers.

Mr. Rogers is buried in Plantation Cemetery near the home site. According to Emma Rogers' tombstone at Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Cemetery, she was born in 1855 and died October 7, 1956, at the age of 101. However, census dates for her age and birth year vary.

Architecture

The L-front plan is one of the most common vernacular house forms for rural and small-town houses in Mississippi built during the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. It is distinguishable from the L-front house commonly referred to as the gable-and-wing.

⁵ Office of the State Auditor, Oktibbeha County Tax Rolls, 1883-Land.Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS. Series 1202, Box 3445.

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Richard Cawthon, former Chief Architectural Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, developed the terminology to distinguish the Mississippi form from the "gable front and wing' form described by Virginia and Lee McAlester in their book, *A Field Guide to American Houses.*⁶ Unlike the New England and Midwestern predecessors described by the McAlesters, the Mississippi form developed from the center-hall planter's cottage common in Mississippi throughout the nineteenth century.

The Rogers house includes most of the features associated with the L-front form. The house includes the main entrance located at the center of the façade in the middle section of the L-front, and as typical is sheltered under a shed roof porch which fills in the L. Original beadboard is found throughout the house. L-front houses became popular in an era of increasing sophistication in the building trades with standardization in building materials. Consequently, houses became more commonly constructed of mill-sawn lumber, store bought doors, beadboard, and other items purchased from industrial sources that were less costly than handmade on site as had been in the past. However, because the Rogers family operated a saw mill on the property, it is believed that much of the lumber came from the site.

Similar L-front gabled houses were constructed between 1895 and 1904 throughout the state. The form was common in towns with access to railroads that eased the shipment of standardized materials, including Natchez, Winona, Batesville, and Columbus.⁷ The urban examples tended to be more ornate and often had canted front gabled wings. One notable example in Oktibbeha County is the Lampkin-Owens-Kraker House, constructed in the late 1880s on Montgomery Street in Starkville (NR, 1980), a two-story house that combines elements of Queen Anne and Italianate details with the L-front form. The Rogers House is much simpler in scale and design reflecting its rural setting amid forests and agricultural fields.

The house has remained in the same family since construction and is a testament to the lifestyle of an African American family living on and farming on a self-sufficient plot of land in rural Mississippi.

⁶ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A *Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

⁷ Richard Cawthon. "Selected Late Victorian L-front Houses." Historic Preservation Division. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Complied February 26, 2007.

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

Name of Property

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi County and State

Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Blumenson, John J. <u>Identifying American Architecture</u>. New York and London. W. W. Norton and Company. 1981.

Cawthon, Richard. "Selected Late Victorian L-Front Houses" Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Compiled: 17 June 1997.

Leeke, John. "Behind the Scenes with Beadboard." Old House Journal. February, 2006.

McAlester, Lee and Virginia. <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>. New York. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2003.

Office of the State Auditor, Oktibbeha County Tax Rolls, 1883-Land. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS. Series 1202, Box 3445.

Oktibbeha County Genealogy. http://oktibbeha.msghn.org/

United States Census Records, Years 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940.

Oral Interviews:

Johnson, Elmira. Great Granddaughter of Ed Rogers. April 28, 2013.

Rogers, Dr. Peggy. Great Granddaughter of Ed Rogers and present owner of property.

Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- _____ previously listed in the National Register
- _____previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _____designated a National Historic Landmark
- _____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- _____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- _____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- <u>X</u> State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- _____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- _____ University
- ____ Other

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 105-STK-5073_____

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <u>26 acres</u>

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:_____(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.404444	Longitude:-88.858056
2. Latitude: 33.404444	Longitude: -88.855000
3. Latitude: 33.855833	Longitude: -88.355833
4. Latitude: 33.402778	Longitude: -88.858056

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Situated in the County of Oktibbeha, State of Mississippi: E ¹/₂ of NW ¹/₂ and SW 1/2, Section 20, T-18, R-14 east SW ¹/₂ Section 18, T-18, R-14 Subject to right of way for public road.

Name of Property

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the immediate property around the Rogers House that remains from the larger family holdings and represents the historic setting.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Letitia P. Horton				
organization:				
street & number:1930 Allyson Drive				
city or town: <u>Tupelo</u>	state:	zip code:	38804	
e-mailmstish2000@aol.com				
telephone:662-231-2076				
date:March 29, 2017				

Additional text by: Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian

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Name of Property

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.



• **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Name of Property

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Emma and Ed Ro	ogers House
City or vic.:	Starkville vic.	
County:	Oktibbeha	State: MS

Photo 1 of 11

S façade, view to N Photographer: Letitia P. Horton Date: July 22, 2014

Photo 2 of 11

S façade and W elevation, view to NE Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 3 of 11

N (rear) elevation, view to S Photographer: Letitia P. Horton Date: July 22, 2014

Photo 4 of 11

N (rear) and E elevations, view to NW Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 5 of 11

E elevation and S façade, view to NW Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 6 of 11

Porch and main entrance, S façade, view to N Photographer: Letitia P. Horton Date: July 22, 2014

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

Name of Property

Photo 7 of 11

Center hall, view toward back door, to N Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 8 of 11

Center hall, view toward front door, to S Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 9 of 11

E room, view toward W Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 10 of 11

SW (front) room, view to N Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017

Photo 11 of 11

NE (rear) room, view to S Photographer: Michael Fazio Date: July 14, 2017 Oktibbeha County, Mississippi County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street et, NW, Washington, DC.

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Ed and Emma pictured with David, Bessie, and Cora (from L to R)

Figure 1: Rogers Family c.1905.

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Figure 2: 1909 Plat Map showing Ed Roger's property in Section 20. http://oktibbeha.msghn.org/maps/1909platmap.html

Rogers House, Emma and Ed

Name of Property

Floor Plan

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi County and State

- Well



Sections 9-end page 20





















