NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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JAN 30 1996
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McGehee, Theodore L., Plantation House

other names/site number Colonel McGehee's Place

2. Location

street & number 5924 Tangipahoa Road N/A☐ not for publication

city or town Summit ☒ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Amite code 5 zip code 39666

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P'Pool JAN. 23, 1996
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 3/1/96

Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block piers
walls weatherboard
roof steel
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
- ☐ **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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1867

Significant Dates

1867

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McGehee, Theodore L.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

McGehee, Theodore L., Plantation House
Name of Property

Amite County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	731050	3466370
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joreen R. McGehee (edited by Brenda R. Crook, MDAH)

organization _____ date October 5, 1995

street & number 5924 Tangipahoa Road telephone (601) 249-3703

city or town Summit state MS zip code 39666

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGehee

street & number P.O. Box 673 telephone (601) 249-3703

city or town McComb state MS zip code 39648

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. DESCRIPTION

Facing north at the corner of Tangipahoa and Jones Roads in Amite County, Mississippi, is the McGehee Plantation House, a one-story, vernacular Greek Revival, galleried planter's cottage built in 1867 by Theodore L. McGehee. Situated amid 310 acres of the plantation's original 1200 acres, the setting of the house remains virtually unchanged, with oak trees, cedar trees, red buds and crepe myrtles. One of the original "Mr. and Mrs." cedar trees planted in 1868 to the right and left of the entranceway still remains; the other was destroyed by the Amite County tornado in 1986.

The house is a 42-foot wide by 30-foot deep structure with four rooms and a central hall. The house sits on its original 42-foot long, 12-inch square, hand-hewn sills held together with hand-made wooden dowels. In 1983 concrete blocks were installed to replace the original brick piers that had begun to crumble. The exterior walls are 6-inch heart pine weatherboards. The house has a side gabled roof with an undercut gallery having four box columns with molded capitals, a wooden deck and steps. At the foot of the steps is a 12-foot by 8-foot brick walkway constructed in 1991 from old brick salvaged from the two original chimneys. Both chimneys required replacement as the east chimney was destroyed by the 1986 tornado and the west chimney was deemed unsafe--hence the salvaged brick. Care was taken to rebuild the chimneys as they were with high shoulders and corbelled caps.

At the central entrance is a four panel door framed by a five-light transom and two-light sidelights set above molded panels. All of these glass panes are original except one, which was replaced with old glass found in New Orleans. At each side of the entrance is an 8-foot tall, six-over-six, wood-frame window protected by the original cypress shutters. Windows on the side elevations are six-foot tall, six-over-six sash. All of the original windows had been replaced in the 1940s and only remnants of these remained when the present owners acquired the property. The owners consulted with the historic preservation specialist of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on the proper type windows, muntin profile, and number of panes per sash for a house of this style and period. Tommy Catchings, who purchased millwork machines from the old Williams Sash Company at Smithdale, was hired to produce the new wood-frame windows.

The interior of the house features a central hall with two rooms on each side. The hall walls are the original 6-inch and 8-inch heart pine, tongue-and-groove boards as are all the ceiling boards. The ceilings are 10 feet tall. The house is entirely constructed with square nails and every baseboard is the original 12-inch heart pine, as well as the 2-inch heart pine crown molding at the ceiling. The back door, bedroom and living room doors are four panel, 84-inch tall, cypress doors with plain molding. All locks are the original rim locks with porcelain knobs, and every door is hung with original hinges and screws.

Due to roof leaks, time and wear, the heart pine floors were in a state of disrepair. They were, however, left in place and overlaid with 6-inch, tongue-and-groove boards made from 80-plus year old pine trees cut from the plantation. Walls throughout the house are the original 6-inch and 8-inch heart pine, tongue-and-groove except the kitchen, which is done in yellow poplar, tongue-and-groove, double-beaded boards.

The heart pine mantel in the bedroom is original to the house; however, the living room mantel was destroyed by a fireplace fire in 1984. This mantel was rebuilt out of solid cherry boards taken from a cherry tree cut from the property and was built to match the style of the one in the bedroom.

Originally 16 feet by 17 feet like the living room, the bedroom has had 5 1/2 feet taken from the rear to allow space for a bath and closet. The kitchen and dining rooms are 11 by 17 feet. There was no plumbing and only crude wiring until 1991 when restoration work began and the house was plumbed and wired. A central heat and air conditioning unit was added.

Going out the back door were steps and remnants of a brick walkway. These were removed and a 16-foot by 42-foot deck was added.

The setting around the house has changed very little over the years with many of the old cedars, oaks, redbud and crepe myrtle still standing. Also located within the boundaries being nominated is a new pumphouse, which is a noncontributing structure. The house still stands today much as it stood in 1867--a cotton plantation and home for T.L. McGehee and his wife. Now, a pine tree plantation and home for his grandson, R.E. McGehee and his wife.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

McGehee Plantation House derives its significance from its architectural character (Criterion C), being a well-preserved example of a rural vernacular Greek Revival planter's cottage with undercut gallery. It was built in 1867 by Theodore L. McGehee on property he purchased after his return from the Civil War and prior to his marriage to Lenora A. Spurlock. The house is a good example of the type of dwelling built by small farmers in the antebellum and postbellum years. It has the typical vernacular Greek Revival form with a gallery that is recessed beneath the front slope of the roof. The floor plan is also typical to the area, featuring a central hall with two rooms to each side of the hall.

T.L. McGehee, or Colonel McGehee as he was affectionately known, and Lenora eventually expanded their acreage to 1200 acres, one reason being that the Col. McGehee wished to "have at least 100 acres to leave each of my children," according to writings left by McGehee. The McGehees raised nine children on their place and two others died at a young age.

Cotton was the mainstay of the McGehee Plantation, which had its own saw mill, cotton gin and general store, or commissary as it was known at that time. After the boll weevil invasion and the loss of cotton, McGehee raised cattle and corn and much of the surrounding acreage was devoted to the growth of timber. Three creeks meandering through the property provided good hardwood bottom land and an excellent environment for growing pine trees.

At the death of T.L. McGehee in 1930, the house and surrounding 310 acres was left to his son, Clyde McGehee of Vicksburg, who maintained the house as a family gathering spot for several years, but none of the family actually lived in it. In 1981 Robert E. McGehee (Clyde's son and T.L.'s grandson) inherited McGehee Plantation. Since then, he and his wife have been in the process of restoring the house and grounds. They now have all acreage in uneven age pine timber production. The house has been fully restored giving every precaution to preserving each item that was usuable and replacing what had to be replaced with wood harvested from the property.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boudreaux, Paul, Architect, Baton Rouge, LA. Consultation with Joreen McGehee, March 2, 1993.

Chisholm, Hazel. Granddaughter of T.L. McGehee. Interviewed by Bob and Joreen McGehee in Jackson, Mississippi, May 10, 1991; September 29, 1991; and January 5, 1992.

McGehee, Charles White, Associate Editor, Summit Sun, 1939-42, grandson of T.L. McGehee. Interviewed by Bob and Joreen McGehee in Mentone, Alabama, December 3, 1991 and December 21, 1992.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The property is located in the SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 14, Township 4 North, Range 6 East. The boundary being nominated is a rectangular parcel 288'x168' in size: measuring 114' from the center of the roof ridge of the house west to Tangipahoa Road, 54' east to the driveway, 198' north to where the driveway enters the road, and 90' south to the old fence line.

Boundary Justification: The nominated boundaries encompass a tract of 1.1 acre. Although the present property owners own a large tract of land originally associated with the house, the nominated boundaries were drawn to include only the immediate setting of the house since it is being nominated for architectural significance only.

McGehee, Theodore L., Plantation House
Summit vic., Amite Co., MS
R.E. McGehee
September 1985
Miss. Dept. of Archives & History
Main (north) facade, view to south
Photo 1 of 5

McGehee Plantation House
Summit vic., Amite Co., MS
R.E. McGehee
September 1995
MS Dept. of Archives & History
Main (north) & west elevations, view to Southeast
Photo 2 of 5

McGehee, Theodore L., Plantation House
Summit vic., Amite Co., MS
R.E. McGehee
March 4, 1994
MS Dept. of Archives & History
Hall, view to south
Photo 3 of 5

McGehee, Theodore L., Plantation House
Summit vic., Amite Co., MS
R.E. McGehee
September 1995
MS Dept. of Archives & History
Bedroom (northeastern most room), view to east
Photo 4 of 5

McGehee, Theodore L., Plantation House
Summit vic., Amite Co., MS
R.E. McGehee
September 1995
MS Dept. of Archives & History
Diningroom, view to southwest
Photo 5 of 5