

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cooper, Robert L., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Mhoon Valley Road N/A not for publication
city, town West Point vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Clay code 25 zip code 39773

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Clay County Multiple Resource Area

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Kenneth A. J. Paul
Signature of certifying official

SEPT. 18, 1991
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1865

Significant Dates

c. 1865

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Robert L. Cooper log house, built in 1865, is significant as the most intact example in Clay County of a double-pen log dogtrot house. The significance of the property is enhanced by the survival of what is believed to be the original log barn, built on similar proportions and in the same double pen style. The house and barn together provide a fine example of early log construction and homesteading in rural Clay County.

As mentioned in the Residential Resources section of the Historic Context statement, three other representatives of this early rural type of architecture survive in recognizable form. Log houses in Clay County do not represent any particular building generation -- these four were built in the 1830s, 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s, respectively. (A now-enclosed example, the Albert Smith house near Una, was built in 1900 as part of a doctor's prescription for a patient's health, according to legend.) Most of the Clay County examples that could be dated were antebellum, however.

Because log construction was a method accessible to people with commonplace skills in the mid-19th century, examples and remnants of log houses are found in many county locations. They are contemporary with a few antebellum Greek Revival houses that show a higher level of architectural savvy and craftsmanship, but are located on or near well-traveled early roads. Many of the log examples are (or were) set at a significantly greater distance from large communities, busy roads, and developing railroads.

The log houses are significant because they exemplify the homesteading talents and the local resources used by settlers in outlying areas and because their survival speaks highly of those talents and resources.

See continuation sheet

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture: animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

Agriculture: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: log double-pen dogtrot

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick piers

walls logs

weatherboard

roof metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Robert Cooper House is settled in a pasture, just east of a road running north to south from Highway 50 to the site of the former Mhoon Valley settlement. The west gable end of the house faces the road. The facade is oriented to the south. In plan, the house is a typical double-pen log dogtrot with a rear shed addition. Its facade is three bay (window, door, window). Windows are small 6/6 double hung sash and have plain frames and low-pitched shed shelters attached at the hoods. The entry is an early 20th century one-light over paneled bottom door with side windows. The door and windows are set in a weatherboard infill in the original open dogtrot. The rear shed addition is also weatherboard. It is not full length, but has an open corner at the northeast which serves as an interior back entry porch. (See photos #1 & 2).

In plan, the house is a typical one-and-a-half-story log dogtrot. Two equal sized rooms open off of a 12' wide central opening. The frame shed addition at the rear has two rooms, a bath, and the porch. Quarter turn stairs located inside each main pen lead upstairs to rooms under the side gabled roof. The western room was separate from the rest of the upstairs. The eastern room had a door in the partition wall which allowed access to a small, dark room centered over the open dogtrot. This room is lighted by a small window centered over the main entrance. (See plan diagram.)

Interior doors are plank, including small doors under the staircases for storage. (See photo #4.) Interior walls in the log section are the exposed logs and chinking. (See photo # 3.) Mantels are simple shelves with sawn brackets. Ceilings are flush boards. Upper rooms are open to the gable roof, now covered with metal, but originally with wooden shakes. Gable end chimneys do not open into upstairs rooms, but probably provided some secondary heat. Part of the interior wall between the western upstairs bedroom and the room over the stairs has been taken down. Interior surfaces on the frame addition appear to be composition board.

A log barn, built on the same double pen plan as the house, is located to the northeast. The barn is a rough log structure, without chinking, and with an added board and batten shed to the north. Notching on the barn logs is cruder than on the house and varies among saddle, half dovetail, and square notching. Hay racks are attached at the rear of the structure, under the shed enclosure. (See Photo #5.) Construction details and accounts of former owners indicate that the barn is roughly contemporary with the house. The two buildings, taken together, form the only log homestead unit of their kind in Clay County.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context bibliography.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 4 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
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3	3	6	2	0	0
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3	7	1	8	6	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Robert Cooper House include 50 feet in each cardinal direction from the house except to the east, where the lines extend to include the log barn and 50 feet north, east and south of that building.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

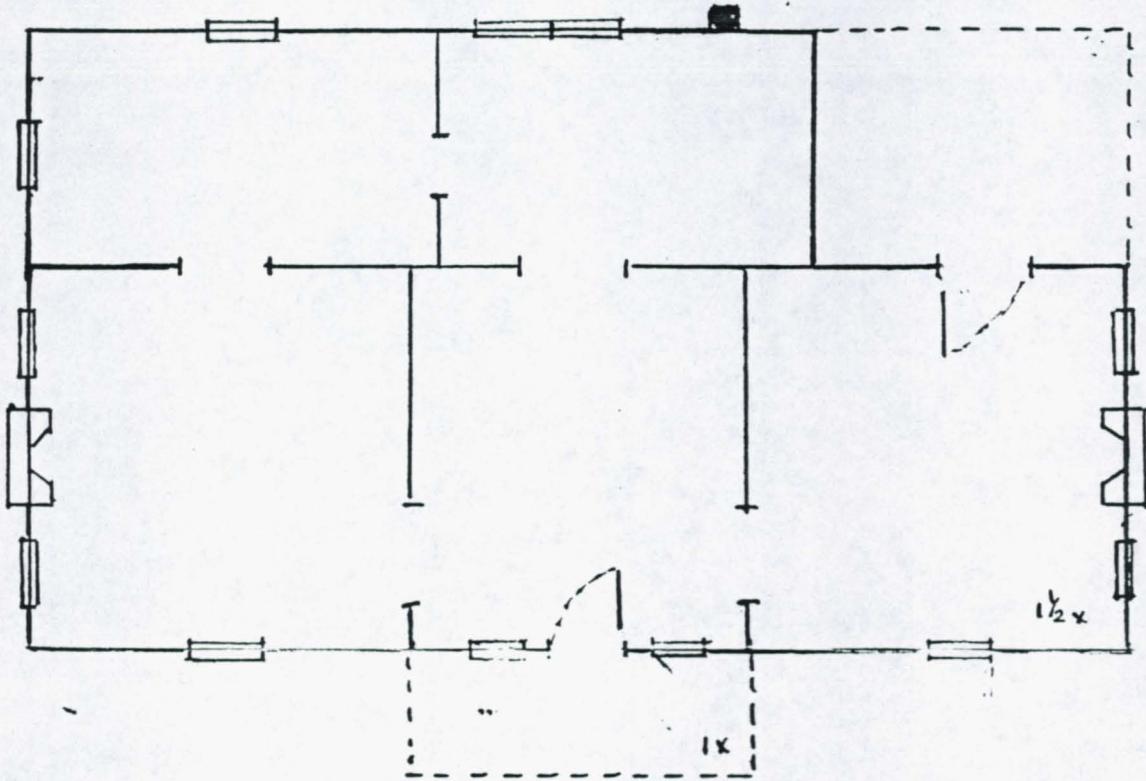
The boundaries are drawn to include the log house and the double-pen log barn to the northeast. The two buildings together form the only surviving log-form homestead complex in Clay County.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

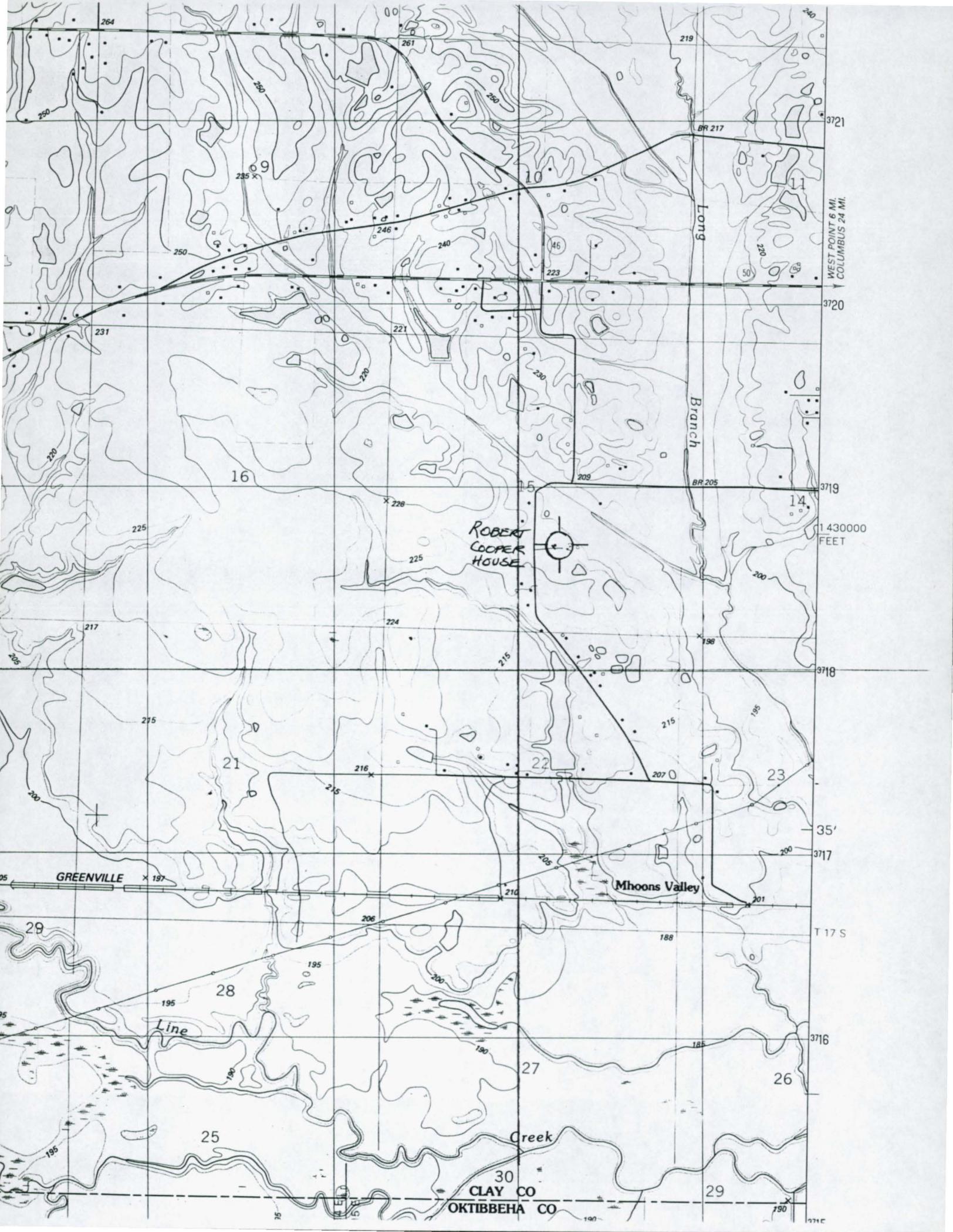
name/title Joan Embree
organization Preservation Consultant date 8/5/89
street & number 20 Lake Valley Road telephone (601) 324-0410
city or town Starkville state MS zip code 39759
Owner: Ray Millard, Jr. Rt. 4, Box 24, West Point. MS 39773

ROBERT COOPER HOUSE



NOT TO SCALE

DRIVE OFF OF MOON VALLEY RD.



WEST POINT 6 MI.
COLUMBUS 24 MI.

1:430000
FEET

ROBERT
COOPER
HOUSE

Mhoons Valley

Line

Creek

CLAY CO
OKTIBBEHA CO

GREENVILLE



COOPER, ROBERT HOUSE
MOUND VALLEY, CLAY COUNTY, MS

EMBREE
MAY 1969

MISS DEPT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
FRONT ELEVATION, VIEW TO NORTH
PHOTO # 1 OF 5



COOPER, ROBERT HOUSE
MOON VALLEY, CLAY COUNTY, MS

EMBREE
MAY, 1989

MISS DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
REAR ELEVATION VIEW TO SOUTHWEST

PHOTO #2 OF 5



ROBERT COOPER HOUSE
MHOON VALLEY, CLAY COUNTY, MS

EMBREE
MAY, 1989

MISS DEPT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
CENTRAL HALL, VIEW TO WEST

PHOTO# 3 OF 5



ROBERT COOPER HOUSE
MOUND VALLEY, CLAY COUNTY, MS

EMBREE

MAY, 1989

MISS DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

STAIR TO LOFT FROM PARLOR, VIEW TO EAST
PHOTO #4 OF 5



ROBERT COOPER HOUSE
MHOON VALLEY, CLAY COUNTY, MS

EMBREE

MAY, 1989

MISS. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

LOG BARN, VIEW TO NORTH

PHOTO #5 OF 5