

32-01-8055-61

NR 7-29-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Cook-Morrow House

AND/OR COMMON

John Morrow House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

875 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Independence

CODE

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. John Morrow

STREET & NUMBER

875 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Independence County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cook-Morrow House was designed by John P. Kingston, architect, of Worcester, Massachusetts, in what might be termed shingle style though the shingle elements are somewhat muted. The building, constructed in 1909, consists of two-and-one-half stories and a full basement. It is constructed of wood stud walls with brick veneer. The plan form is essentially rectangular with a porch wrapping around the front and right side elevations at the ground level.

The roof is highly pitched with four shingled gable ends. Each gabled end is decorated by a recessed pointed arch form with three rectangular double-hung windows within each arch opening into the top half story. One windowed dormer also opens into this top story from the front elevation.

A denticulated frieze and cornice continuously band the building at the roof wall juncture. Double brackets support this cornice at the center points and corners of each elevation.

Two bay window projections extend from the left side elevation at the ground level. Both the above-mentioned porch and these bay projections are roofed with slightly sloping roofs at approximately the second floor level. The porch roof is supported by square cut stone columns. These simply capped stone columns are linked by a matching cut stone rail and ballusters. The two small service porches opening at each corner between the rear and side elevations are similarly detailed.

The entire structure rests on a rock faced stone base penetrated intermittently by small windows for the basement.

Masonry detailing and workmanship is exceptional. The brick joints are 1/16 inch thick, commonly called buttered joints and brick corners are rounded with a continuous vertical reveal.

The interior remains virtually unaltered with the kitchen as an exception. Original light and plumbing fixtures remain as do some of the most beautiful carved oak mantles in the state. All woodwork and doors on the first and second floors is oak in its original condition. Woodwork in the basement and top half-story is pine for economy's sake also in vintage condition.

A unique plumbing system still functions in the basement allowing the adjustment of hot or cold water for each individual plumbing fixture in the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Kingston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cook-Morrow House is one of the most architecturally significant houses in Batesville. At the time of its construction in 1909, the house was considered the finest residence in the county and even today is considered as such by many. In addition to its obvious architectural merits, the Cook-Morrow House possesses historical significance because of its association with Virgil Young Cook, its builder. Cook was one of the wealthiest, most successful residents of Independence County at the turn of the century. The Cook-Morrow House remains today as an outstanding example of the type of house built by a rich planter and merchant when he moved in from the farm to the city.

Virgil Y. Cook not only was a successful merchant and planter, he also was a veteran of two wars. As a young boy he served as a private with the Confederate Army. During his enlistment he was under the command of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest. In later years Cook worked very actively to maintain an interest in the history of the Confederate Army. He occupied the position of Adjutant General under General Robert G. Shaver, who commanded the Arkansas Division of United Confederate Veterans, and later became Commander of the Arkansas Division of the Trans-Mississippi Division. Later he served as Colonel of the Second Arkansas Infantry during the Spanish-American War of 1898, but did not see action outside the United States.

After young Cook was paroled at Paduka, Kentucky, in 1865, he came to Arkansas and located at Grand Glaize in Jackson County. He worked with the merchant firm of Cox and Byers until 1874 when he relocated at Olyphant. He entered the mercantile business and operated the newly completed Cairo and Fulton Railroad Station. He accumulated land in the Oil Trough Bottoms and in 1884 relocated his mercantile company at Elmo. He operated a sawmill and cotton gin, also, which was reported to have no equal in Arkansas. He remained on his Oil Trough farmlands until 1908 when he constructed his house in Batesville.

By 1908 Colonel Cook had accumulated approximately 8,000 acres in Independence, Jackson, Clay and Greene Counties. He also held an interest in a ranch in Texas.

To design his new residence, Colonel Cook hired architect John Kingston of Worchester, Massachusetts. The original estimate for the house amounted

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

to \$10,300, but it actually cost \$23,000 to complete. After the foundation had been poured and the framing completed, the foundation was discovered to be too small for the brickwork specified in the contract. A law suit was filed, which halted the work temporarily. Both parties were found to be at fault and an adjusted payment schedule was agreed upon.

Upon the death of Colonel Cook in 1922, his widow occupied the house until 1925. The estate was divided between Colonel Cook's six surviving children. John Morrow, Jr., a grandson of Colonel Cook, now owns and occupies the house. It has never been out of the family and is a virtual museum of valuable family antiques and artifacts of local significance. Two tables that once belonged to John Ringgold, an illustrious Independence County pioneer, are among the prized possessions.

The Cook-Morrow House remains in excellent, unaltered condition today as an example of a house built by a wealthy planter and merchant in 1909. Additionally, this house has remained in the same family since its construction. The quality and detail of design, materials and workmanship, coupled with the family history, make this house a local landmark of historical and architectural significance.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Batesville Record, March 16, 1922.

Herndon, Dallas, Centennial History of Arkansas, Chicago: Clarke Publishing Company, 1922. ♦

McGinnis, A. C. "Batesville, Historic Town of a Historic County." Independence County Chronicle, Reprint of address to 1967 A.H.A. meeting.

Morrow, John. Personal interview at Cook-Morrow House, October 1, 1976.

W.P.A. Independence County place file at Arkansas History Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	115	622780	3959540	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Dan Chapel, Architect and Donna DuVall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-14-76

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

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 Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



