4m No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cook-Morrow House was designed by John P. Kingston, architect, of Worchester, 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 form 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.

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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

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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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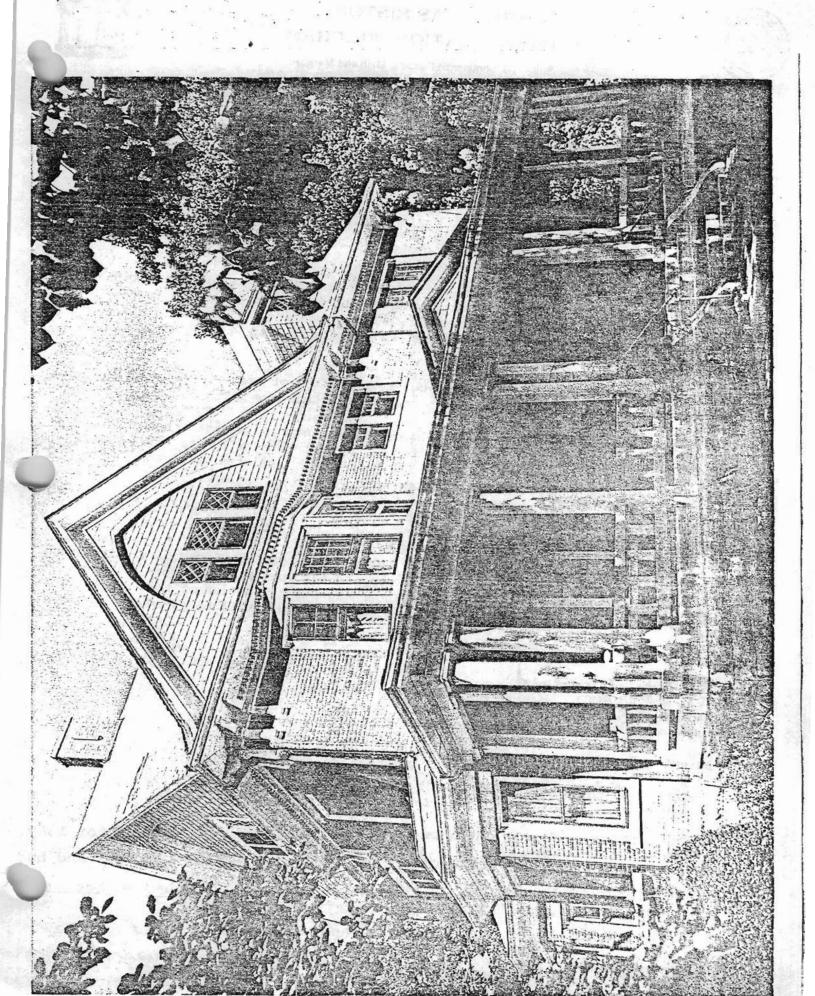
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Herndon, Dallas, Centennial History of Arkansas, Chic Company, 1922.	cago: Clarke Publishing
McGinnis, A. C. "Batesville, Historic Town of a Historic	oric County." Independence
County Chronicle, Reprint of address to 1967 A.H	
Morrow, John. Personal interview at Cook-Morrow House	
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ORGANIZATION Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	DATE . 12-14-76
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham	501-371-2763
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As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Pre- hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify	
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	6 (* * 2)
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	
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ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

November 12, 1976

Mr. John Morrow 875 Main Street Batesville, Arkansas NOV 1 5 1976

Re: Cook-Morrow House

Batesville, Independence County

Dear Mr. Morrow:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Cook-Morrow House which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their December meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

If you have any questions concerning the program or your property's nomination, please contact Donna DuVall of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

BW:emf

I approve of the above property being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.	×	
to the National Register of Miscoric Flades.	Yes	No

The location of the house was put on the Delinquent Tx list for 1869. Comments: It was a part of the 16th Section, set aside for School purposes and had

not been sold by the School Commmissioners. Col.Cook had an Act passed by the Legislature abo t k890 (signature)

confirming title to owners who had assemed and paid taxes for the

preceeding year. 1/13/76 John P. Thomas &