

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 29 1976  
DATE ENTERED JAN 4 1977

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

Cedar Grove

AND/OR COMMON

The Cedars *use this (see letter 1-24-77)*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

405 East College Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

VICINITY OF

CODE  
28

COUNTY  
Hinds

CODE  
049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Drs. James T. and Patricia S. Currie

STREET & NUMBER

405 East College Street

CITY, TOWN

*LE BOWEN see letter* Jackson CLINTON

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hinds County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Pascagoula Street

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cedars is a five-bay, one-story frame house which faces south from an elevated site fronting on College Street (the old Jackson-Vicksburg road) in Clinton, Mississippi. Built as a simple Greek Revival cottage with a center hall plan two rooms deep, the house is sheathed with clapboards and has a gable roof from which two interior chimneys originally projected symmetrically at the ridge.

A full front gallery, supported by six tapered square columns, was extended around the southeast corner of the house in 1903 with the addition of a full gallery across the east elevation. At the same time a four-room wing was added along the west side of the house and extending at the rear, providing space for a kitchen, pantry or service area, bedroom, and bathroom. Two closets and another bathroom were created out of existing space in the original portion of the house, and a rear portico was enclosed as a sun-porch.

The main entrance features square side lights and transom lights, and the six-over-six sash windows are set inside simple molded architraves. Wooden mantels at the four fireplaces in the house include two simple Greek Revival examples in the back rooms and two Classical Revival examples in the front, representing, respectively, the two major periods of construction of the house. Wide heart pine flooring and sliding paneled doors between the front and back halls are among the original interior features that have been well preserved. Simple cornices and a dining room chair rail have been added by the present owners.

The Cedars takes its name from a grove of more than fifty cedar trees which once occupied the yard between College Street and the front of the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> _PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> _AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> _LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> _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 ca. 1835 - 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest houses extant in Clinton and Hinds County, The Cedars is typical of the simple but spacious vernacular form of Greek Revival cottage once popular in Mississippi. Its exact date of construction is unknown, but land records indicate that there was a structure on the site by 1839 (Deed book 12, p. 243), and architectural evidence places the period of the house at 1835-1850.

Founded as Mount Salus shortly after Mississippi gained statehood in 1817, the town of Clinton began to develop as a center of higher education when Hampstead Academy opened there in 1826. The academy became Mississippi College in 1830, and much of the history of The Cedars is interwoven with the history of the school, the oldest and largest private collegiate institution in the state.

The property on which "The Cedars" stands was originally owned by Minerva Fitz Morgan and Jacob B. Morgan, pioneer settlers in the Clinton area, and the house changed hands at least five times during its first twenty years of existence. It finally came under more permanent ownership and began an unbroken affiliation with Mississippi College in 1859 when Emile Menger, a professor of music, arrived from Germany with his family (Deed book 29, pp. 162, 164). Called "Cedar Grove" at the time, the house belonged to the Menger family during the Civil War, when College Street served as the main route along which the forces of Grant and Sherman marched from Jackson to besiege Vicksburg in 1863. The Mengers owned the five acres containing Cedar Grove until 1903, when the property was sold to Patrick Henry Eager, professor of English and acting president of Mississippi College, for \$1,250 (Deed book 39, p. 554). Mrs. Eager changed the name of the house from "Cedar Grove" to "The Cedars" in order to avoid confusion with her family home in Aberdeen, Mississippi, already called "Cedar Grove." The only major additions to the house were made by the Eagers shortly after they acquired the property (see Physical Description).

The Cedars remained in the Eager family for seventy-two years, during which time the growth of Clinton and the gradual division of the property reduced the grounds to a tree-shaded three-quarter-acre lot. The property had been threatened by plans to expand an adjacent apartment complex when Doctors James T. and Patricia Summers Currie, also connected with Mississippi College, purchased the house in August, 1975, from Miss Annie Laurie Eager, daughter of Professor Eager (Deed book 229, p. 307). The Doctors Currie have carefully renovated and selectively restored "The Cedars," and their efforts have encouraged the preservation of other historic structures in the community. The house was opened to the public during Clinton's Bicentennial Pilgrimage in 1976, and it is included on the "Walking Tour of Historic Clinton."