

Cedar Oaks  
About 0.3 mi. N of the Old Barton  
Ferry Road and 560 ft. S of the  
Tombigbee River, 9.1 mi. NW of the  
intersection of State Rte. 50 and  
U.S. Rte. 45 alt.  
West Point Vicinity  
Clay County  
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-182

HABS  
MISS,  
13-WESPO,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## CEDAR OAKS

Location: 9.1 miles northwest of the intersection of State Route 50 and U.S. Route 45 Alternate, About .3 miles north of "Barton Ferry Road", 560 feet south of the Tombigbee River, West Point Vicinity, Clay County, Mississippi.

USGS West Point 15' Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates:  
16.360260.3723200.

Present Owner: Subject to litigation (August 1978).

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: Cedar Oaks is probably the last remaining structure from the extinct river town of Barton. The finish details of the house show a late interpretation of the Greek Revival style found throughout Mississippi.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Puzzling deed records and extensive alterations make it difficult to assign a date of construction to Cedar Oaks. The relatively short-lived town of Barton lasted from 1848 to 1870 so it is probable that the house was built during this period. Enough physical evidence does remain to establish the resemblance of Cedar Oaks to similar dwellings based on Greek Revival prototypes erected throughout Mississippi during the 1840s and 1850s. These one- or one-and-a-half-story houses have in common central hall plans, roofs extending over front galleries supported by columns, and entrances with rectangular side lights and transoms. Many, like Cedar Oaks, have square boxed pillars.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Cedar Oaks is located on the Barton Townsite, in the northwest quarter of fractional Section 31, Township 16 South, Range 8 East, Chickasaw Meridian, Clay County, Mississippi. No historic legal description of the house site exists since the plat map for the now extinct Town of Barton has disappeared. Because legal records for the Town are for the most part abstracted by Lot and Block numbers in the years before 1880, it is difficult to establish title to the house prior to that date. Although Barton was originally part of Lowndes County, records pertaining to the title of this property are located in the Office of Chancery Clerk, Clay County Courthouse, West Point, Mississippi.

- 1879 Warranty Deed. Bardine Richardson and his wife to Mary Coltrane, December 29, 1879. Recorded in Book 10, pages 425 - 426. "Conveyance of the East half of Fractional Section 31, Township 16, Range 8 East excepting 16 acres in the NE corner of said section and 24 acres in the SE corner of said section. Also the West 1/2 of the same section excepting 3 acres in the SW corner, also 27 acres in the same section belonging to M. E. Coltrane in the SW Corner. Also the SE quarter of Fractional section 36, Township 16 Range 7E excepting the SW corner of the same section containing 50 acres sold to W. T. Barry," for \$2000.
- 1907 Warranty Deed. Evaline C. Edens to W. M. Coltrain, Jr., October 2, 1907. Recorded in Deed Book 40, p. 281. "the East half of Fraction Section 31, Township 16, Range 8 excepting 16 acres in the NE corner of said section and 24 acres in the SE corner of the same section." W. M. Coltrain and Evaline Edens were possibly exchanging property, since page 280, Deed Book 40 contains a grant of land from Coltrain to Edens for \$100, the cost of the land in the above transaction.
- 1913 W. M. Coltrain, Jr. to Jan Uithoven, Warranty Dee. November 21, 1913.
- 1929 Will of Jan Uithoven. Clay County Will Record 2, p. 184. Jan Uithoven died in 1931, his widow in 1935. The property remained in the possession of his children.
- 1978 United States of America, v. 162.20 acres of land, more or less, situate in Clay County, State of Mississippi, and F. E. Uithoven, et al. A Judgment on Declaration of Taking was issued for the Plaintiff by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, Eastern Division on February 23, 1978. [Civil No. EC78-26-S MF 33-25-361-22 (1) and Civil No. EC78-27-S MF 33-25-361-22 (2).] The land was taken for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project. Litigation was still pending in the summer of 1978.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.

5. Original construction: Because of extensive alterations and the use of salvaged materials, it is difficult to determine the original plan of Cedar Oaks. The present symmetrical house may have begun with the two northern rooms. Measured drawings reveal that the front door on the west elevation is slightly off center.

The mantel in the northwest, front room is more primitive than its counterpart in the southwest room and the board-and-batten door connecting the two northern rooms appears to be the oldest in the house.

Mortise and tenon joints have been found in the northwest and southwest corners of the house where the front and end plates meet. Hewn timbers have also been found in the shed which was originally an ell joined to the northeast section of the house.

6. Alterations and additions: Felix Uithoven remembers that the house once had four brick exterior end chimneys, two each on the north and south ends--a chimney for each of the main rooms of the house. These stepped down to a low shoulder just below the window line and a base, below the sill of the house. These chimneys were taken down around 1927. In 1941 Felix Uithoven replaced the west chimney on the south facade with the present flue, which bears his initials and the date.

Uithoven stated that the folding doors on the east elevation at the rear of the hall had always been there and that there had once been a stoop at that location. During the Uithoven occupancy the northeast rear room was used as a kitchen, and an ell extended east from the kitchen toward the location of the present shed. A few hand-hewn timbers from the former ell are visible at its base of the detached shed. The shed formerly contained a wood stove attached to a flue. Around 1920 Jan Uithoven decided to move the ell away from the house for use as a guest house. It collapsed as Uithoven was attempting to move it, so he utilized all materials that could be salvaged to build a guest house, now used as a shed. At the time the guest house was built, a screened porch extending along the rear of the house from the north corner to the center stoop was attached, slightly below floor level. The screened porch abutted the guest house. This porch is now gone.

In 1968 a tornado struck the northern part of the house. The roof suffered considerable damage resulting in water damage to the flooring in subsequent years. In 1975 and 1976, Felix and Gys Uithoven began to repair the house. Siding was applied to the east facade covering a window opening in the southeast room. The joists and flooring of the front porch were replaced, and the two central pillars were also reconstructed. The present wood stair was placed at the center of the front porch. Uithoven stated that the former west stoop had had both treads and risers and had extended the full distance between the two central pillars. Electricity and a water pump were added at this same time. (Interview with Felix Uithoven)

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure:

1. The town of Barton was located on the west bank of the Tombigbee River in the vicinity of two other extinct river towns, Colbert and Vinton. References to Barton in 1848 applications for ferry charters indicate that Barton was established by the early part of that year. A flood in 1847 had severely damaged Colbert, an older town platted in 1835. It appears that Barton superseded Colbert, absorbing many of the latter town's functions. On April 6, 1848 the Colbert Post Office was renamed Barton and moved to the newer town. By March 13, 1849 the voting precinct at Colbert had also been removed to Barton. In 1854 the Town of Barton was incorporated with boundaries contiguous to those of Fractional Section 31. Deed Records and Police Board Minutes indicate that there were warehouses, a tavern, and a Christian Church in Barton during the 1850s. Occupations listed in the 1850 Census show that Barton was a thriving commercial town inhabited by eight planters, four merchants and two clerks, four carpenters (three from North Carolina, one from Virginia), three physicians, and two steamboatmen. Also included were a gunsmith, a stagedriver, a ferryman, a blacksmith, a tailor, and a millwright. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad reached West Point (9 miles west of Barton) in December 1857. With the rail connection to Mobile, West Point developed rapidly, displacing Barton as a center for cotton shipment. By April 17, 1858, barely ten years after the original settlement, the designation of the Barton Post Office was changed to Vinton and moved to that location, about a mile to the northwest. Despite the rapid decline of Barton, deed records indicate that people continued to live there through 1870. (Elliot, pp. 49, 53-54, 57-63, 68-73, 77-79).

2. Jan Uithoven, who bought the property in 1913, was born in 1845 and died in 1931. He emigrated to the United States from Amsterdam where he had been trained as a physician. He settled in Iowa and remarried, since his first wife had died in the Netherlands. His second wife disliked the Iowa climate, so they moved to Mississippi, settling north of Columbus. The marriage produced five children before the second Mrs. Uithoven died. Jan Uithoven then married for a third time, to Mrs. Keller, a woman from Alabama, who had five children of her own. Gys and Felix Uithoven and Frances Uithoven Rhea were children of this marriage.

Jan Uithoven named his homestead for a cedar and oak on the property which had grown together as one tree. This "cedar oak" still exists. Uithoven also owned the Barton Ferry and employed his Keller stepsons for its operation. (Interview with Filix Uithoven)

3. The Uithoven family continued to occupy the house until about 1953. From the time of Mrs. Uithoven's death in 1935 until the early 1950s, the house was occupied by Frances Uithoven Rhea and her family. They engaged in dairy farming and raised beef cattle. After the Rheas left the property the house was occupied by tenants, first the wayne Holmes family, then the Pearl Duke family. The Dukes had moved out by the time the tornado hit the house in 1968. (Felix Uithoven)
4. In 1977, the Colbert and Barton Townsites encompassing the Cedar Oaks property were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Records, Office of Chancery Clerk, Clay County Courthouse, Mississippi, West Point, Mississippi.

Interviews:

Jack Elliot, Jr., Palo Alto, Mississippi, July 8, 1978. Jack Elliott is the author of A Cultural Resources Survey of Selected Construction Areas in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway: Alabama and Mississippi. He has done exhaustive documentary research on the Barton townsite which is summarized in the Cultural Resources Survey.

Elizabeth Reynolds, Atlanta Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, July 5, 1978. Elizabeth Reynolds nominated the Colbert and Barton Townsites to the National Register, September 21, 1976, when she was working at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. In a telephone conversation she clarified various points in the nomination and explained her opinion on the date and original configuration of the house.

Felix Uithoven West Point, Mississippi 39773, July 13, 1978. Felix Uithoven's father bought the Cedar Oaks property in 1913 and the Uithoven family has been associated with the site since that time. Felix Uithoven provided information about his family and about alterations and additions to the house since his occupancy.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Douglas, Ed Polk, Architecture in Claiborne County, Mississippi (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1974).

Elliott, Jack D., Jr., A Cultural Resources Survey of Selected Construction Areas in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway: Alabama and Mississippi Volume II. (Starkville: Mississippi State University Department of Anthropology, 1978. Available in HABS library, Washington, D.C).

Kempe, Helen Kerr, The Pelican Guide to Old Homes of Mississippi, Volume II: Columbus and the North (Gretna, Louisiana: The Pelican Publishing Company, 1977).

Prepared by: Betty K. Bird  
Project Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
August 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This one-story, four-room, central hall house has elements both of folk plan types and of vernacular Greek Revival details.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, although some recent exterior sheathing is not in keeping with that on the remainder of the house, and most of the windows are damaged or missing.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over all dimensions: The house is 48'-5" (three-bay front) by 36'-6".
2. Foundations: The house is raised two to three feet above grade level on piers. Piers around the perimeter are of brick, sometimes set on a concrete pad. Interior piers, placed in an irregular grid pattern, are of two types Older piers resemble those at the perimeter. Newer piers are of concrete block.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are sheathed with horizontal weatherboards. The west (front) elevation has boards ranging in size from 6" to 12", butted edge-to-edge, with an applied narrow chair rail 2'-8" above porch floor level. The north and south end elevation are of weatherboards more uniform in width (generally about 8") and later in date than the west siding. The weatherboards on the east (rear) are of more recent date, and the board width is approximately 11". All exterior walls are painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: The house is constructed of heavy timber framing, with mortise & tenon joints, (of both pinned and unpinned varieties), as well as some lap joints, the structural frame is virtually free of nails.
5. Porches: The front porch spanning the entire west facade is approximately 10' deep and is the only existing porch structure. A single flight of wooden steps approximately 5' wide leads from the ground up to the porch at the center of the house. No stoop remains at the rear entrance to the enclosed central hall.

6. Chimneys: The existing exterior chimney/flue is said by the present owner to have been added in 1941 in the same location as a previous chimney serving a fireplace. Three other chimney structures, for which hearth locations and some evidence of foundations can be found, have also been destroyed. The existing chimney/flue of red brick laid in running bond, narrows from a width of 3'-8" at the base to 3'0", to 1'4" at the top in three distinct sections with shoulders between. The 1'-4" section is 14' tall.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance consists of a single, six-panel wood door (3'-0" by 6'4") with sidelights to the left and right and a fixed eight-light transom above. Sidelights each have four glass panels above a wood base ending at chair rail height. The east door, at the rear of the central hall, consists of three paneled sections, each roughly 1'-10" wide and 6'-5" tall. The southernmost section is hinged at the frame, and each section is hinged to the next. When closed, the doors rest against a stop block. Each section contains three wood panels. The other rear door to the northeast room, panel wood door measuring approximately 3'-0" by 6'-5". All doors are painted white.
  - b. Windows and shutters: There are eight window openings, five of which have been covered on the exterior with corrugated cardboard. The two west facade windows remain uncovered, and each has four-over-four double hung sash. These windows have inside dimensions of approximately 2'-4" by 5'-3". Trim width at the sides and top is 3-3/4". The current owner states that the sashes in the four windows in the north and south ends are not original, with the possible exception of one six-light sash in the northwest room, implying a six-over-six arrangement if applied to all the north and south windows. Openings for these four windows are 2'-4 1/2" by 5'-9". The single window on the east elevation consists of two lights in a wooden sash permanently fixed into a wooden frame. The window opening measures approximately 2' in width and 3' in height. There is also a window opening toward the east end of the north elevation.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The roof has basically a gable with a single break to a lower pitch on each slope approximately 4' from the ridge. The entire roof surface covered with corrugated metal and has been painted with silver paint.

- b. Cornice, eaves: The roof overhangs the north and south end walls by only two to three inches. To the west, the overhang is approximately one foot; to the east, approximately 1'-6". Eaves are unenclosed. There are no fascia boards on the east or west, but 5" fascia boards are used on the north and south.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The floor plan consists of four rooms located two on either side of a central east-west hall space, the rooms on the west (front) being larger than the two on the east (rear).
2. Flooring: Flooring is of wood planking varying in width from 6" to 7-1/4", running north-south in the front rooms and east-west in the rear rooms.
3. Walls and ceiling finish: Walls in the two front rooms are of plaster applied to wood lath, some surfaces being painted. The southwest room has a chair rail. The northwest room has a chair rail as well as a wainscot of horizontal flush boards. The central hall has horizontal flush boarding identical to that used on the west facade and also has the thin chair rail molding on the south and east walls only. The hall is painted white. In the southeast rear room the south wall consists of wood lath from which the plaster has been removed; the east wall has no interior surfacing, thus revealing the interior surface of exterior siding; the north wall is of wood lath with plaster removed; the west wall is of wide, flat boarding like that used on the west facade and in the hall. The ceiling is bare wood lath. In the northeast rear room, the south wall is of gypsum board; the east and north walls are unpainted gypsum board nailed to wood lath with a chair rail on the west wall at a height of 2'; the west wall shows the interior surface of 7" exterior siding. The ceiling is unpainted gypsum board nailed to wood lath.
4. Doorways and doors: Each room has a doorway into the central hall. Each doorway has a door, except for the northeast rear room. The hall doors are six-panel wood doors painted white. Between the northwest front and northeast rear rooms, there is an unpainted plank door. All interior doorways measure 3'-1" by 6'-5".
5. Decorative features and trim: The southwest room has a wood mantel with tapered octagonal colonnettes and broad frieze board. The northwest room has a wood mantel with plain pilasters.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The building is surrounded by woods, in which a clearing, roughly oval in shape, has been maintained. The house faces west in the center of this clearing and is approached from the west by a narrow dirt road terminating in a parking area separated from the front yard by a wire fence.
2. Outbuildings: A small storage building measuring approximately 15' by 13' is located roughly 20 feet east of the northeast corner of the house. Roughly 70 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the house is a 6' by 6' outhouse.

Prepared by: James Murray Howard  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
August 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation done during the 1978 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta, and cosponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile and Nashville Districts, in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a mitigative effort in the construction of the waterway. Records were made of eighteen historic sites and structures in the region between Gainesville, Alabama, and Iuka, Mississippi.

The project was executed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was James Murray Howard of the University of Illinois. Project Historian was Betty K. Bird of the University of Virginia. The Assistant Historian was Michael Ann Williams (University of Pennsylvania). Foreman was Ruthie D. Wiley of the University of Florida. Student Architects who prepared measured drawings for the project were Carol J. Crandall (Carnegie-Mellon University), Richard J. Cronenberger (University of Miami), Peter G. Darlow (McGill University), Daniel M. Gaines (University of Tennessee), and R. Bradley Mellor (Rice University). The inventory of sites within the project area was carried out by Inventory Supervisor J. A. Chewning of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Assistant Historian for the inventory was Pamela J. Wolf (George Washington University). One structure was recorded during the winter of 1979 by project supervisor Peter G. Darlow (McGill University), Sally K. Tompkins, Project Historian, and Staff Architects Bethanie C. Grashof, Rudy Massengill, and Janet Hochuli (The Cooper Union). Drawings for this structure were completed during the spring of 1979 by staff Architects Peter G. Darlow, Janet Hochuli, James F. Speake and Reginald A. Berry (Howard University). Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in the summer 1978 and by Gil Ford in the spring of 1979.