District #4 Rep. James R. Mann  Theme: Westward Expansion, 1763-1898

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nicholls-Crook House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 13.6 miles SW of Spartanburg on US Hwy 221; turn left on county road S42-120; house is .1 mile on right.

CITY OR TOWN: Spartanburg vicinity
STATE: South Carolina

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

District Site Object
Building Structure

OWNERSHIP
Public Private Both

STATUS
Public Acquisition: In Process

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Occupied Unoccupied

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
Agricultural Commercial

Government Industrial

Private Residence Military

Religious Museum

Scientific

Transportation Other (Specify)

future residence

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER’S NAME:
Robert S. and Bedie P. Overman

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Candlestick Antique Shop 393 East St. John Street

CITY OR TOWN: Spartanburg
STATE: South Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Spartanburg County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Magnolia Street

CITY OR TOWN: Spartanburg
STATE: South Carolina

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia
Exterior: This two-story house of Flemish bond brickwork was constructed c. 1800 by Jesse Crook, a planter of Spartanburg County. The sensible plainness of its Georgian architecture was modified during the 19th century, but the wooden structure additions have since been removed or deteriorated. Alterations in the brickwork of the bays were also made, and the roof line lowered after late 19th century fire damage. However, the current owners are presently restoring the house to its original appearance.

The front and rear facades consist of three bays with central doorways. Alterations in the brickwork surrounding windows and doors were made with the addition of a wooden piazza and rear room during the first half of the 19th century. The piazza extended across the northern (front), western, and southern (rear) facades. The additional room was adjoined to the western end of the rear facade and thus the lower window of that area was closed and the upper window shortened. Original first-floor window and doorway arches were filled in and thus the size of these openings decreased. Originally the upper bound of the first-floor windows and doorways were on the same horizontal plane--either the openings themselves were larger or transoms were located above them. The only remnants of these wooden additions are the modifications in the brickwork and openings described above and the markings on the facades where the piazza and rear room roofs were attached.

The first floor sits some four to five feet above ground level. Though the piazza was a later addition, some manner of stairways and possibly porches or porticos leading to the entrances were of necessity included in the original construction. Beneath the first floor is a full basement that is half above, half below ground level. In the southern (rear) facade there are two windows at ground level which light the basement area.

Each side facade contains two exterior end chimneys with corbeled caps. The lower sections of the chimneys are of Flemish bond, while the upper sections are of all stretcher. The two chimneys on the western facade are completely separate. All four windows of this facade are located between the chimneys: one first-floor nine-over-nine-light window, two narrow second-floor windows, and one small window in the clapboard gable. The eastern facade chimneys are of unusual construction. Separate above the second-floor level, they surround a small gable window and a second-story nine-over-nine-light window. At the second-floor level the two chimneys are joined together and extend to the ground as one broad chimney. This lower part of the chimneys extends southward at mid-first-floor level to include the basement entrance, which contains four arches in the passageway to the basement area. Roughly chamfered bricks form the shed roof over this entrance.

Interior: The basic plan of this house is two-over-two rooms with a central hall and stairway. The eastern first-floor room has one very large fireplace with original hand-carved mantel. In the western first-floor room there are two fireplaces, side by side along the same wall, and though the original mantels have been removed, they are available for copying. The upper eastern room has been subdivided, but restoration plans include changing it to its original appearance. The full basement, which was used as domestic slave quarters, has an earthen floor and large fireplace. The (See Continuation Sheet, Item 7.)
**Significance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period (Check One or More as Appropriate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Pre-Columbian</td>
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<td>☐ 15th Century</td>
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**Specific Date(s) (If Applicable and Known)**

C. 1800

**Areas of Significance (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Political</th>
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<td>☐ Industry</td>
<td>☐ Religion/Philosophy</td>
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<td>☐ Conservation</td>
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**Statement of Significance**

Architectural Significance: Elements of 18th-Century architecture are evident in the style of the Nicholls-Crook House, and as such they are significant for their early appearance in Up-Country South Carolina plantation residence design. The Virginia architectural influence can be traced to the fact that James Crook, father of the builder, was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in 1746, and moved to the Spartanburg District some time just prior to The Revolution. Particularly indicative of Virginia styles are the Flemish bond brickwork, the chamfered brickwork of the chimneys, the Georgian plainness of the three-bay facade, the segmental arches over windows and doorways, the wide windows of the front and rear facades, and the joined chimneys of the eastern facade. Though the house is presently in a deteriorated condition, the owners are planning a complete restoration under the direction of Henry Boykin, II, A.I.A., and member of The South Carolina State Board of Review for The National Register of Historic Places. Upon completion of restoration, the Nicholls-Crook House will stand as an authentic and attractive landmark of early Up-Country South Carolina plantation design modeled upon the styles of Colonial Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
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<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE | LONGITUDE
----------|-----------
34 46 56.3 | 82 01 22.6

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2%

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Wright Caughman Historic Preservation Assistant

South Carolina Department of Archives and History Aug. 18, 1972

1430 Senate Street P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

Columbia South Carolina

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Name: Charles E. Lee
Title: Director, South Carolina Department of Archives and History

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/20/73

ATTEST: [Signature]

Date 3/13/73
NICHOLLS-CROOK HOUSE

7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

basement walls are constructed of large field stones up to the water table, and of brick for the upper portion.

Surroundings: The builder of this house selected this site because it is the highest ridge just above the South Tyger River. The house overlooks a modern golf course which utilizes much of the original plantation acreage. Surrounding the house is a grove of very large pecan trees which continue to bear.