

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1975

DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Tombee Plantation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest end, St. Helena's Isl. near Land's End

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Frogmore

VICINITY OF

One

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Carolina

045

Beaufort

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

X NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

James A. Williams

STREET & NUMBER

429 Bull Street

CITY, TOWN

Savannah

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 31401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1031

CITY, TOWN

Beaufort

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior

Tombee Plantation house is a two-story clapboard structure set on a high tabby foundation. Probably built ca. 1790-1800, Tombee was constructed in a T shape, allowing each room to have window exposure on three sides. Windows are 9/9. Structure has gable roof. Front portico is single story with 4 square columns and balustrade. There are two exterior end chimneys; south chimney was rebuilt during restoration (1972) to match north chimney. Rear facade has two-story balustraded porch with six square columns on each floor. Doors on each floor of rear facade have transom with semi-circular fanlight inset. Before restoration (1972) rear porch had deteriorated; was rebuilt upon the tabby foundation. (The front of Tombee was historically the side facing the marsh. For modern convenience, the front is now the side facing the road.)

Interior

There are three rooms to each floor. Walls and overmantel in the parlor are feather-grained. Floors are of heart pine. Wainscoting remains throughout the structure. Two bathrooms and a kitchen were incorporated into Tombee during restoration. Dining area does not have electricity. Hurricane bracing located in corners of house.

Surroundings

There are plans to construct a bridge from St. Helena to St. Phillip's Island. The bridge will be located approximately 3300 feet from Tombee. At present, Tombee is located in an undisturbed area with marshlands behind the house. No intrusion is now evident anywhere within visual range 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 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. 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT -----

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tombee Plantation is one of the few surviving antebellum plantation houses remaining on St. Helena Island. The structure retains much of its original interior detailing and is an example of the smaller plantation house which once existed on the sea islands in Beaufort County.

Tombee stands as an example of the Beaufort-style house characterized by square posts supporting a two-story porch and with the tabby foundations previously found in this area.

Early deeds and records related to Tombee cannot be located. Much of the history is therefore based on local tradition. According to a map (ca. 1937) of St. Helena Island by Arthur Christenson, the land of Tom B. Chaplin coincides with the present location of Tombee Plantation.

It is believed that this structure was built in the late 18th Century, possibly by Thomas Chaplin (1747-1835?) who is recorded in a 1790 census as owning 65 slaves on St. Helena Island. The first Chaplins are found planting on St. Helena in 1725 and remained a prominent family on the island until the beginning of the War Between the States.

Thomas Benjamin Chaplin (1822-1890) left a 780-page journal with entries from 1845 to 1857 (there is one entry after the war: January 1, 1886). These daily entries give an insight into life on a sea island plantation. Chaplin's plantation is believed to be Tombee. The main crop on this plantation was Sea Island cotton and the staples of corn, potatoes, and peas.

Tombee Plantation was divided into tracts during the days of the "Port Royal Experiment" in 1862. It remained in the hands of descendants of freed slaves until 1971.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chaplin, Thomas B. Diary (1845-1857). Ms. South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

Dabbs, Edith M. Face of an Island. Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan Co., 1970.

Fripp, William. Chaplin Family Tree. South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14 acres

UTM REFERENCES

660 370
A 17 535680 34741640 B 17 535680 3574400
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 17 5351180 3574380 D 17 5351180 3574640
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Present-day Tombee Plantation bounded on north by a road; on east by road separating said property from property now or formerly belonging to Fred Chaplin, Richard Freeman, Jr., and Emma Chaplin number 2; on the south by marshes of Station Creek; on the west by marshes of Station Creek and a tract of land said to belong to Margaret T. Rodgers, et al, formerly belonging to Rivers.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cynthia D. Cole/Mary Ann Eaddy, Historic Preservation Division February 25, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History 803/758-5816

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 11669 Capitol Station (1430 Senate St.) Columbia, South Carolina 29211

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Charles E. Lee

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/27/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

2/18/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

SEP 16 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1975

DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Johnson, Guion Griffis, Ph. D. A Social History of the Sea Islands. UNC Press, 1930 (reprinted by Negro Universities Press, 1969).

Rose, Willie Lee. Rehearsal for Reconstruction. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1964.

Williams, James A. Interview (1975) conducted by Cynthia D. Cole.

Property

Tombee Plantation

State

S. C.

Working Number

4. 28. 75. 748

Beaufort
Reg. # 75001688

TECHNICAL

Photos

5

Maps

3

HTM consent

Called

1 cont. sheet (#9)

CONTROL

cm

OK 4.30.75

Should probably be nominated as a building instead of as a structure. Called Mary Ann Eddy at the staff and changed the category from "structure" to "building."

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
5-6-75

Restored

Building a bridge 3300 feet
from house,

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
5-6-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cote
5.13.75

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Hurst
5.12.75

KEEPER

SEP 16 1975

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered

SEP 18 1975

Federal Register Entry

11-4-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74













ROAD CLASSIFICATION

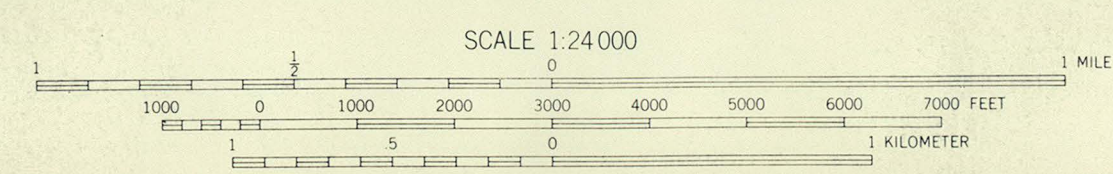
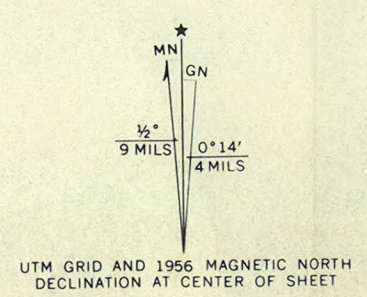
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route

PARRIS ISLAND, S. C.
SW/4 PORT FREMONT 15' QUADRANGLE
N3215—W8037.5/7.5

1956

AMS 4848 I SW—SERIES V846

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS and South Carolina Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1951 and from USC&GS charts T-5187 and T-5188
Topography by planetable surveys 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 571 (1956),
593 (1956), and 1240 (1954)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on South Carolina coordinate system,
south zone. 1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator
grid lines, zone 17, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 6.8 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE SOUTH CAROLINA

Date Entered SEP 16 1975

Name

Location

Tombes Plantation

Frogmore
Beaufort County

Harrietta Plantation

McClellanville vicinity
Charleston County

Also Notified

Hon. Strom Thurmond
Hon. Ernest F. Hollings
Hon. Mandel J. Davis
Regional Director, Southeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Charles Lee
Director
State Archives Department
1500 Broun Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

PR

MMott/row

9/24/75

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

520
NR

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Tombee Plantation

2 OTHER NAMES:

3 date of entry 75 4 county code: 013

5 LOCATION street & number 5 of Frogmore on St. Helena's Island city / town Frogmore state SC county Beaufort 6 NPS REGION: SE

7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name):

8 ADMINISTRATOR: Cynthia D. Cole

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO 11 CONGRESS DISTRICT 1 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☒ NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☒ NO 15 ACREAGE 14. 16 state who prepared form? ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated

17 features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☐ YES - Restricted ☐ YES - Unrestricted ☒ No Access ☐ Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO 20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 ☐ COMMERCE - 6 ☐ ENGINEERING - 11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH. - 15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT. - 21 ☐ RECREATION - 28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS - 7 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT - 26 ☐ LAW - 16 ☐ RELIGION - 22 ☐ SETTLEMENT - 29 ☒ AGRICULTURE - 3 ☐ CONSERVATION - 8 ☐ EXPLORATION - 12 ☐ LITERATURE - 17 ☐ SCIENCE - 23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING - 31 ☒ ARCHITECTURE - 4 ☐ ECONOMICS - 9 ☐ HEALTH - 27 ☐ MILITARY - 18 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN - 24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ ART - 5 ☐ EDUCATION - 10 ☐ INDUSTRY - 13 ☐ MUSIC - 19 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION - 25

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: private residence 24 dates of initial construction: ca. 1800 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): Federal 27 architect: 28 master builder: 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer: 31 interior decorator: 32 artist: 33 artisan: 34 builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL:

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

Frame, clapboarding; 2 stories over high ~~tabby~~ foundation, T-shaped, cross-gabled roof, exterior end chimneys, front center entrance ^{with} 1-story tetrastyle porch; 2-story full width rear porch; original interior detailings; restored, 1972. Federal. Thought to be built ² by Thomas Benjamin Chaplin, prominent island plantation owner.