S.C. District #1 - Rep. Mendel Davis Theme 7. America At Work

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
South Carolina	
COUNTY:	
Beaufort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 13 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
John A. Cuthbert House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1203 Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort

STATE		CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	29902	45	Beaufort	013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Apartments	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Beaufort	South Carolina	45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Beaufort	South Carolina	45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Beaufort, S.C. by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright

DATE OF SURVEY: June 1970 ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Beaufort Foundation Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Beaufort	South Carolina	45

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built c.1811, the Cuthbert House is typical of Beaufort architecture. Mounted on a raised foundation with central hallways on both floors extending from front to rear, the white clapboard house is designed to take advantage of the waterfront southwesterly breezes.

Facade has central, double-tiered portico supported by Tuscan columns. First floor entrance, surmounted by semi-elliptical fanlight and flanked by sidelights, has a pair of shuttered windows to either side. Alterations of the late 19th Century included addition of rooms, bay windows, Victorian trim and porches on either side of central portico.

House features excellent interior and exterior woodwork and retains its original fine proportions.

Garden at rear was planted with a variety of roses and a dozen orange trees which are said to have yielded several thousand oranges annually.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c.1811

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [X] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [X] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [X] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify) _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Cuthbert house is typical of Beaufort's gracious waterfront homes and is an important component of The Beaufort Historic District. As one of a row of antebellum houses along Bay Street, the Cuthbert House must remain intact to preserve the charm and continuity of this historic area which, unlike most urban communities, consists of free standing houses on large wooded lots. The lots are frequently laid out in formal gardens. In his book, A Second Visit to the United States, renowned English scientist, Sir Charles Lyell, described this area as "an assemblage of villas," each of which was "shaded by a verandah, surrounded by beautiful live oaks and orange trees laden with fruit."

In Historic Beaufort, South Carolina: A Report On the Inventory of Historic Buildings 1968-69, prepared for the Historic Beaufort Foundation by Carl Feiss, F.A.I.A., A.I.P and Russell Wright, A.I.A., the Cuthbert House is given highest rating and the necessity of its being preserved is emphasized. The house is presently in danger of demolition.

John Alexander Cuthbert was born 1790 in St. Helena's Parish, South Carolina. In 1811, he married Mary B. Williamson of Prince William's Parish, South Carolina for whom this house was built. Part of his bride's dowry consisted of a number of slaves which were conveyed to John A. and Mary B. Cuthbert by the bride's father, William Williamson, on December 3, 1811. Lawrence Fay Brewster in Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters mentions the Cuthbert House in his list of Beaufort town houses built by prominent planters of the area.

During the War Between the States, the Cuthbert House became the property of U.S. Army Brigadier-General Rufus Saxton. Henry Haithcock, Major and Assistant Adjutant, mentions the house in the following passage from his book Marching with Sherman: "The General came to Beaufort on the 23rd of January and stayed one day quartering at General Saxton's. The latter owns the house he lives in -- a large fine double house on Bay Street fronting the sea. He bought it at one of the U.S. Tax Sales and I was told gave $1,000.00 for it."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barnwell, Stephen. Story of an American Family. Marquette, Illinois: 1969.

Brewster, Lawrence Fay. Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1947.

Haithcock, Henry. Marching with Sherman. Edited by Dewolfe Howe. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1927.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	32	25	57.3	80	40	33
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ½ acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy R. Ruhf, Historic Preservation Coordinator I

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE: 1/26/72

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

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 45

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 ☐ Local ☒

Name Charles E. Lee

Charles E. Lee

Title Director, South Carolina Department of Archives & History

Date Nov. 4, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/13/72

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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JOHN A. CUTHBERT HOUSE

8. Significance

General Saxton became director of freedmen affairs and cultivation in June 1862 when this responsibility was shifted from the Treasury to the War Department. It was Saxton's duty to take possession of abandoned plantations in the Beaufort area, set up regulations for their cultivation and protect the freedmen in their industry and products. He was sympathetic with the Negroes and hoped to carry out a social experiment which would mold freedmen into hard-working, independent citizens. He experienced great difficulty in managing the numerous plantations in his charge, and in 1863-1864 the government gave up the idea of a social experiment and began to auction or lease the plantations. After the land was disposed of, General Saxton continued his work with the Negroes by requiring the new plantation managers to set forth the terms of employment under which the freedmen would be expected to labor.

NATIONAL REGISTER

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JOHN A. CUTHBERT HOUSE

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Beaufort Foundation. A Guide to Historic Beaufort. Columbia, S.C. The State Printing Co., 1970.

Johnson, Guion Griffis. A Social History of the Sea Islands. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1930.

Lengnick, Lena. Beaufort Memoirs. 1937. Revised 1961.

Lyell, Charles. A Second Visit to the United States, Volume I. New York, 1854.

Webber, Mabel L. (contributor). "St. Helena's Parish Register." South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine.23:53.