

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1975

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

AND/OR COMMON

Tombée Plantation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Frogmore
STATE

VICINITY OF
CODE
045

One
COUNTY
Beaufort

CODE
013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- 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 DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
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				660		370	
A	1, 7	5	3, 5	6, 8, 0	3	4	7, 4	6, 4, 0	
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			
B	1, 7	5	3, 5	6, 8, 0	3, 5	7, 4	4, 0, 0		
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			
C	1, 7	5	3, 5	1, 8, 0	3	5	7, 4	3, 8, 0	
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			
D	1, 7	5	3, 5	1, 8, 0	3, 5	7, 4	6, 4, 0		
	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

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 RESERVATIVE 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

ATTEST: [Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2/18/95
DATE SEP 16 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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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.