

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 22 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Helenaville Archaeological Site (38BU931)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _____ ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Helena Island Sound ☐ vicinitystate South Carolina code 045 county Beaufort code 013 zip code 29920

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of St. Helena Island, c1740-c1935Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Mary W. Edmonds 8/11/88
George L. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer, S. C. Dept. of Archives & History

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/village site

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/forest

Landscape/unoccupied land

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Tabby

walls Tabby

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The St. Helenaville (38BU931) archaeological site encompasses an area [REDACTED] slopes are covered with a mixed pine and hardwood forest and fairly dense undergrowth. [REDACTED], little landscape disturbance other than tree farming activities appear to have occurred since the Civil War period. [REDACTED] two separate house sites are readily distinguished by large tabby piers or chimney bases and brick chimney falls. At other locales, concentrations of hand-made brick define house sites. Several remains of tabby and bricks are evident [REDACTED] village is a tabby cistern which is approximately 8 ft in height; water from this feature was possibly used to water livestock. [REDACTED] is an artesian well within a rectangular tabby enclosure. This well served as the water supply for the village.

Neither archaeological subsurface testing nor excavations have been conducted at 38BU931. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] artifacts observed but not collected included middle to late nineteenth century pearlware ceramic, whiteware ceramic, and amethyst glass fragments. In addition, historic ceramic sherds and a silver spoon have been reported by a local informant to have been removed from near one of the tabby chimney conducted at the St. Helenaville site, the structural remains, the tabby cistern and artesian well, and the undisturbed landscape indicate the site retains a high degree of integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Archaeology/Historic - Non-Aboriginal

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

c. 1820 - c. 1870

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Sea Islanders

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Helenaville Archaeological Site is significant for its potential to yield information about the village of St. Helenaville. St. Helenaville was a small antebellum village and summer retreat located on the

[REDACTED]
village could be reached by water and by one of the island's two major roads. By the late 1850s, St. Helenaville was also a port of call; schooners and steamers stopping there transported much of the island's cotton to the mainland.

Antebellum St. Helenaville was most active during late spring and summer when most plantation owners moved their families to their summer cottages. Year-round residents were primarily widows and clergymen who occupied well-constructed houses located near the northern end of the village along the bluff margins. William Fripp and some of his brothers, for example, had permanent houses near the northern end of the village. Three large buildings and fifteen smaller buildings (cottages ?) are plotted on the c. 1862-1866 U.S. Direct Tax Commissioners Map for the District of South Carolina.

Other than houses and summer cottages, there were apparently few public buildings at St. Helenaville. One such structure, was the Muster House. This was basically a social club where the St. Helena Mounted Riflemen met. Although a church might be expected to have been a focal point in the village, there was none. The Rev. David McElheran, a year-round resident, held services in his parsonage from 1831-1833. By 1833 a summer chapel, described as simple but neat and convenient (Dabbs 1983:69), had been built primarily by McElheran. In 1859 a new chapel called St. Helenaville Chapel was consecrated.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

S. C. Dept. of Archives and History,
Columbia, S. C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

Zone Easting Northing

C

B

Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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It is probable an actual school building was not located in the village; however, a school, taught by Mrs. David McElheran, commenced in May at the time plantation owners moved to the village for the summer. Apparently it was not uncommon for summer visitors to rent houses/cottages at St. Helenaville. For example, Thomas B. Chaplin often rented a summer house for his family. On one occasion, Chaplin's summer house was approximately one-half mile from that of his mother's (Rosengarten 1986). Essentially, St. Helenaville was a summer social center where planters played billiards and cards, and held dinners and dances. With the onset of the Civil War, these activities ceased. In 1863, St. Helenaville was occupied by freedmen arriving from other areas of the south. A freedmen's school was located there but the location of the school building is unknown.

St. Helenaville was damaged by several major storms. In 1845 a severe hurricane damaged [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Major storms in 1893 and 1911 further damaged [REDACTED] water and other inland structures were destroyed. Although the village was small, the site of St. Helenaville did not completely erode into [REDACTED]

The site's integrity, intact archaeological features, and historical significance relative to the antebellum and postbellum period occupations are indicative of its potential to yield significant scientific data. There is very little historical documentation of St. Helenaville. Consequently, archaeological investigations can provide the answers to numerous research questions which include:

- a) Was the village laid out in well-planned lots and what were the lot sizes? How many structures were located in the village?
- b) If and how the houses of year-round residents differed from the summer cottages. What materials were used in the construction of the various building types?
- c) Planters took some slaves with them for the summer. Were the kitchens and slave quarters detached buildings? Where were other dependencies within each lot?
- d) Is there a retreat/resort lifeway (diet, social/leisure, sanitary) pattern which can compare and/or contrast with the plantation pattern?
- e) How are differences in planter and slave status patterns reflected in the village/retreat setting?