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:	
Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 9 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Stiles-Hinson-~~Thompson~~ House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Stiles Point Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
940 Paul Revere Drive ~~, James Island~~

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	045	Charleston	019

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		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
C. O. Thompson, III Cdr. & Mrs. George Finlo 9/7/76

STREET AND NUMBER:
940 Paul Revere Drive

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina	045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:
Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina	045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Columbia	South Carolina	045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER OCT 9 1974 DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	[X] Excellent	[ ] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	[X] Altered	[ ] Unaltered	[ ] Moved	[X] Original Site		

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

EXTERIOR:

The Stiles-Hinson-Thompson house is actually two houses built back-to-back. The older house, built about 1742 by Benjamin Stiles, is constructed of clapboard over a low foundation. It is one and one-half stories high with a bellcast gambrel roof. Six evenly-spaced narrow posts support the lower section of the roof over the full porch. Perfectly symmetrical, the front elevation consists of a central door with sidelights with a 9/9 double sash window on either side. Two small shed dormers, located under the upper roof projection, have six lights each and are centered above the first floor windows.

The side elevations are dominated by double hipped brick chimneys and are identical. To either side of the single stack chimneys is a 9/9 window on the first floor and a six-light window on the second. All of the windows have wooden shutters with iron hinges.

Towering above the modest Stiles house is the later two and one-half story structure built by William Hinson in 1891. A flat connecting roof was added from the first floor ceiling level of the Hinson house, which intersects the smaller house at the angle of the gambrel roof. Below this the diagonal trimming board of the original roof is still in place.

Also built of clapboard, the Hinson house is supported by low brick piers above a partial basement. The rectangular plan has bays on both the side and front elevations. Identical first and second story porches project around three sides of the house, following the angles of the bays at the sides. The front sections of the porch, however, do not project out in line with the bays, but run straight across the front of the house. Eight evenly-spaced chamfered posts with moulded capitals support the porch roofs on the front elevation, and additional posts support the roof on the sides. Both porches have delicately-carved wooden balustrades.

The side bays contain windows (2/2) on each of their three faces, and the front bay on each story has a central door with a window to either side face. The main doorway on the first floor is divided into six panels, and the upper two are glazed. Both the doorway and the windows of these central bays are topped by rectangular transoms. Inside the main entrance is a small vestibule with another doorway opening into the house. It is identical to the outer door, but also includes six sidelights and wide moulding around the side panels, transoms, and door. There are two evenly-spaced french doors on each side of the front bays, each divided into four glass panels.

A bracketed cornice divides the lower two stories from the mansard roof, which supports a dormer with triple windows (also with bracketed cornice) centered above the front bay. Evenly spaced on each side roof is a single pedimented roof dormer. There are identical dormers on each side elevation, while the rear mansard level has a central triple window dormer with brick chimneys on each side. The rear facade has five windows on the second floor and two on the first, one to either side of the intersecting Stiles house.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* ca. 1742, 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1742 by Benjamin Stiles, a pioneer planter on James Island, the Stiles-Hinson-Thompson house was a vital plantation during the 18th and 19th centuries. William Godber Hinson (1838-1919), who made significant contributions in the field of agricultural science, built the 1891 portion of the house and continued to keep the plantation active until the early years of the 20th century.

ARCHITECTURE:

The back-to-back arrangement of a relatively unaltered 18th-Century cottage and a late 19th-Century Victorian mansion is most unusual and is unique in this area. Despite the wedded interior, the exterior of both houses are characteristic of their historical periods.

Built in 1742, the Stiles portion of the house is an example of a mid-18th-Century planter's house in this area. The modified bellcast gambrel roof, the projecting shed dormers, and the double shouldered brick chimneys are notable features of this simple planter's cottage.

The riverside house, built by William Hinson, is a large and elegant Victorian structure with high ceilings, bracketed cornices, a mansard roof, and wooden balustrades. Although the first floor porch, which curves to one side, is typical of Victorian houses of this period, the identical second story verandah is not as common. The upper porch is suited to the warm climate on James Island, for it provides an additional large open living area with maximum exposure to river breezes.

AGRICULTURE:

Benjamin Stiles was one of the earliest planters on James Island. He and his son, Benjamin Stiles, Jr., captain of the James Island Company during the Revolution (1777-80), are both buried in the family cemetery at Stiles Point. A descendant of Benjamin Stiles, William Hinson played a vital role in South Carolina's subsequent agricultural development. Hinson held prominent offices in numerous agricultural societies in South Carolina, such as the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society (the oldest agricultural organization in the United States, though not chartered until a year after a society in Massachusetts), the South Carolina Agricultural Society, and the Farmers' Alliance. Through his publications in agricultural

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Columbia, S. C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston County Wills (1671-1868). Will of Benjamin Stiles, Jr. Vol. 30, p.770.

Columbia, S. C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Plat Book (1731-1775). Plat of James Island property belonging to Benjamin Stiles, 1734 Vol. 3, p. 38.

Hemphill, J. C., Men of Mark in South Carolina. Washington, D. C: Men of Mark Publishing Co., 1908. pp. 204-207.

Register, Jeannie H., ed. "Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette." South Carolina Historical and Geneological Magazine 29: 153.

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	45	06	79	55	45
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.36 acres

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elias B. Bull
Betty Myers Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester C

ORGANIZATION: S.C. Dept. of Archives and History/Historic Preservation Div. DATE: April 26, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

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

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 20, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/9/74

ATTEST:

Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-7-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
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(Continuation Sheet)

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Stiles-Hinson-Thompson House
7 Description (continued)

INTERIOR:

A central hall plan with two large rooms in front and two smaller rooms at the rear is carried out on all three floors of the Hinson house. The small northeastern room contains an open well staircase. The doorway at the rear of the central hall which leads to the Stiles house is identical to the front door of that house, the transom is frosted and contains the date "1891". This door opens onto a short flight of stairs, leading down into the Stiles house, which consists of one large room to each floor. Originally, this large area was divided into two rooms by a central hall which contained the staircase. Inscribed on the first floor fireplace tile is the date "1742". Sections of the house are of mortise and tenon construction, and evidence of pegs has also been found. The single mantles are decorated with dental moulding and have circular spoke medallions on each side of the fireplace opening.

The building is being restored by its owner.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Stiles-Hinson-Thompson House
8 Significance (continued)

journals advocating the use of commercial fertilizers and outlining his experiments with subsoil drainage, he became a leading spokesman for a new agricultural system in South Carolina. He is recognized as one of the last local planters of long-staple cotton for which the Sea Islands were famous.

MILITARY:

Both Benjamin Stiles, Jr., and William Hinson were actively involved in military service. Stiles fought for the independence of the colonies during the Revolution. Hinson, sympathetic to the South's cause during the War Between the States, volunteered to serve with the Rutledge Mounted Riflemen, later known as the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry, in which he became a lieutenant. He was wounded three times during his service, which lasted for the duration of the War. From 1864 to 1865 he kept a diary recounting his experiences. It, along with an extensive collection of historical material dealing with South Carolina, is in the collection of the Charleston Library Society.

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9 Bibliographical References

Waring, Joseph Loor., ed. "The Diary of William G. Hinson." South Carolina Historical and Geneological Magazine Jan. '74: 14-23.

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