

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Edisto Island Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Cassina Point

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Hopkinson House

LOCATION: Approximately 1 mile off Clark Road, on Cassina Point Road just south of a small tributary of Westbank Creek, and within sight of Oak Island.

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Pierce H. & Joy T. Thompson
Cassina Point Plantation
Edisto Island, S. C. 29438

DESCRIPTION

Cassina Point is a two-and-one-half story, rectangular plan, side-gable roofed residence on a raised, brick basement (laid in Flemish bond). The building is clad in weatherboard except at the pedimented gable ends where the tympanum is sheathed in flushboard siding. There is a tripartite window of nine-over-nine lights with four-light sidelights centered in each gable. Two massive, interior, brick chimneys with stuccoed necking and rat-tooth bands pierce the rear slope of the roof. A full-width, five-bay, hipped-roof porch with plain columns extends across the facade elevation. The fenestration of the facade is asymmetrical and reads AABBA (A = a single, double-hung-sash window with six-over-six lights and original, paneled shutters; B = a single-leaf entrance door with recessed panels and surrounds with cornerblocks) on the first story. The second story fenestration is AAAAA (A = a single six-over-six, double-hung-sash window with paneled shutters). Three gabled dormers (with six-over-nine; nine-over-nine; and nine-over-six lights) project from the front slope of the roof. The fenestration of the side elevations is symmetrical with three ranks of four-bays each. The interior features marble mantels, and door and window surrounds with bull's-eye cornerblocks. There are no outbuildings associated with the period of significance extant in proximity to the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cassina Point, constructed in 1847-48 for Carolina Lafayette Seabrook and her husband, James Hopkinson, is significant as a large antebellum house and remnant of a sea island cotton plantation. Hopkinson, of Philadelphia, was grandson of Francis Hopkinson, signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey and designer of the American flag.(1)

Mrs. Hopkinson, only an infant of a few days during the Marquis de Lafayette's visit to her father's home in 1825, was named by the French gentleman at the request of William Seabrook. Travelling in the north and Europe for most of her life, Carolina Lafayette preferred the active social life of those places. However, her husband, whom she married on 12 June 1844, preferred the quiet plantation life of Edisto. Consequently the lumber for Cassina Point lay on the site, a high bluff, for three years before a compromise was reached and construction began.(2)

This house and plantation, located just across a small creek and within sight of Oak Island (see individual inventory form), were occupied during the Civil War (1862-65) by, among other units, the Third New Hampshire Regiment, commanded by Col. E.Q. Fellows.(3)

Cassina Point, named for the cassina bush (*Ilex cassine*), which abounds on Edisto Island and from which was made a tea, was inherited by the Hopkinson's daughter, Julia Hopkinson LaRoche, and remained in the Hopkinson and Seabrook families until recently, when a couple from Massachusetts purchased it.(4)

ACREAGE: Approximately 4.0 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #80-0-0, Parcel 13, with an approximate scale of one inch equalling 2000 feet. This is more clearly defined on Charleston County Tax Map #87-0-0. The property includes the historic building (house) and its immediate surroundings.

QUAD NAME: Edisto Island, S. C.

Quad Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/570310/3606040

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

¹Nell S. Graydon, Tales of Edisto (Columbia, S. C.: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1955), pp. 38-39; Dumas Malone, ed., Dictionary of American Biography (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932), pp. 220-24; Clara Childs Puckette, Edisto, A Sea Island Principality (Cleveland, Ohio: Seaforth Publications, 1978), p. 24.

²Graydon, pp. 38-39.

³Eldridge Daniel, The Third New Hampshire and all about it (Boston: E. B. Seiblings & Co., 1893), pp. 140-41; Puckette, pp. 32, 34-35.

⁴Graydon, pp. 35, 39; Puckette, p. 24.