(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION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: Prospect Hill

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: Approximately 2,000 yards down a dirt road off of Laurel Hill Road, on a bluff overlooking the South Edisto River, northwestern section of island.

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Tang Corporation
c/o Harding C. Fisk
Prospect Hill Plantation
Edisto Island, S. C. 29438

DESCRIPTION

Prospect Hill is a two-story, weatherboard-clad, frame residence, which has a low-pitched, hipped roof and a raised, full brick basement. The plan is rectangular with a central hall on each of the two floors. There is a one-story, hipped-roof porch across the entire facade and a projecting, two-story, two-bay, hipped roof pavilion at the rear elevation. Two interior brick chimneys with stuccoed necking, corbeling, and triple stacks pierce the rear slope of the roof (there is also a matching chimney in the pavilion). The porch across the facade features five bays, plain columns, a simple balustrade with slat balusters, dentil molding, and modillions with pellet molding. The first story fenestration is AABAA (A = a single nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash window with key block and cornerblocks; B = a single tripartite composition with a single, nine-over-nine window flanked by five-light sidelights both of which have pilastered surrounds with cornerblocks and the same dentil molding and pellet modillion motif as the cornice). The side elevations feature two-bay, three-rank fenestration with nine-over-nine windows at the principal stories and six-over-six at the basement level. Also at the basement level, beneath the porch, there is a central, single-leaf door with

sidelights. The interior features decorative moldings at window and door surrounds with cornerblocks with plaque panels and an Adam-style mantle.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: __L__ (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prospect Hill's significance lies in its architectural qualities and in its association with the production of sea island cotton. Constructed ca. 1800 for Ephraim Baynard, this mansion is located on a high bluff overlooking the South Edisto River.(1)

According to longtime former owner, Mr. Percy H. Whaley of Washington, D.C., so valuable was sea island cotton that every available acre that could be planted in long staple cotton meant gold.(2) Even remnants of polder-dikes in the marsh just below the house remain as evidence of their use for the production of the crop.(3)

In 1860, Prospect Hill belonged to William Grimball Baynard, an elder in Edisto Island Presbyterian Church, Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Quorum, and owner of 220 slaves.(4) The property passed in 1861, at his death, to his son, William G. Baynard.(5) The house and plantation have gone to other owners, outside the family.

ACREAGE: Approximately 151.8 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #11-0-0, a portion of Parcel 8, with an approximate scale of 1 inch equalling 400 feet. It includes the historic building (house) and a sizable amount of acreage including all salt marsh areas fronting the property and the South Edisto River. This property has historically been associated with the plantation.

QUAD NAME: Bennetts Point

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT:
A. 17/558080/3605300
B. 17/558160/3604400
C. 17/557960/3604260
D. 17/557840/3604020
E. 17/557720/3603960
F. 17/557620/3604720
G. 17/557360/3605240

FOOTNOTES

[1]Clara Childs Puckette, Edisto, A Sea Island Principality (Cleveland, Ohio: Seaforth Publications, 1978), p. 14; Nell S. Graydon, Tales of Edisto (Columbia, S. C.: The R. L. Bryan Comp., 1955), p. 87.

[2]Puckette, p. 17.

[3]Ibid.

[4]Chalmers G. Davidson, The Last Foray, The South Carolina Planters of 1860: A Sociological Study (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1971), p. 177.

[5]Vol. 49, pp. 886-893, Charleston County Wills, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.