

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 25 1986

date entered FEB 4 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Landsford Plantation House

and/or common Davie House

## 2. Location

street & number County Road 595, 1/2 mile E of  
U.S. Highway 21

N/A not for publication

city, town Landsford Township \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Chester code 023

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name James Sumter Carter

street &amp; number 2303 Forest Garden Drive

city, town Kingwood \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Texas 77345

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street &amp; number

city, town Chester state South Carolina 29706

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of  
Historic Placeshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1985 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

## 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

Landsford Plantation is located in a rural area of Landsford Township, Chester County, South Carolina. It is likely that Frederick William Davie had the residence built ca. 1828. The original design, simple and largely unadorned, is an upcountry South Carolina vernacular design. With only minor alterations and situated near the center of a nearly three hundred acre tract, Landsford Plantation maintains its integrity as an early nineteenth century cotton planter's house.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Landsford Plantation is a timber-framed, weatherboarded two and one-half story residence set on a raised, fully-enclosed stone foundation. The house has a square plan and is two rooms deep. The main facade faces south. A one-story porch, resting on brick piers, extends across the south facade and continues around the east and north facades. The porch, at least on the south elevation, was added about the turn of the twentieth century. The rectangular double-hung windows have six-over-six panes and are flanked on the first level by louvered shutters. Landsford has three exterior brick chimneys of narrow break-away design, two on the west gable and one on the east gable end. Single gable windows on the east and west elevations with nine-over-six lights appear at the attic story. Centrally placed entrance doors are located on the east facade. A sheet metal gable roof has been placed over the original wooden shakes. The porch also has a metal roof.

### Interior

The central entrance hall is flanked to the left (west) by a parlor and to the right (east) by a library. To the rear of the parlor is a dining room or ballroom, approximately 17 by 25 feet. To the right of the dining room and rear of the library is a smaller room from which stairs ascend. Stairway balusters and newel posts are square. The second floor features three square bedrooms. Interior symmetry is evident in the six major first- and second-floor rooms, which all feature two windows on each of two walls, fireplaces with simple carved mantels and, except for the library, chair rails along the walls. The top floor, which is divided into two rooms, has little ornamentation and no fireplaces. All walls and ceilings were of lath and plaster, and all interior doors are six-panel with porcelain knobs. Floors are six-inch pine boards. Alterations to the interior consist of a wooden ceiling in one bedroom, the addition of electricity, and a wooden partition in the dining room.

### Surroundings

Evidence of original landscaping on the nominated five acre tract includes red oaks, a large magnolia, and English ivy. Of the original outbuildings, only a barn of log construction (since extended and covered in weatherboards) remains, the original kitchen and other buildings having been destroyed. In front of the house a low stone wall parallels the unpaved driveway, which winds about one-half mile to U.S. Highway 21. The house stands near the center of a much larger tract than the nominated property, within the western portion of Davie's original three thousand acre plantation. The Landsford Canal State Park occupies much of the eastern side of the original plantation.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1828 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in rural eastern Chester County, Landsford Plantation is significant as an important example of upcountry South Carolina vernacular architecture. It is believed that Frederick William Davie had the two and one-half story, timber-framed weatherboarded residence built ca. 1828.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Landsford Plantation is an unusual example of early nineteenth century upper South Carolina vernacular design. It is characterized by rigid symmetry, axial entrance, and sash windows and has break-away exterior chimneys and a raised foundation. The simple square theme evident in the overall plan is repeated in the three bedrooms and stairway balusters and newel posts. The small second floor room, which opens into one of the bedrooms as well as the hall, may have been designed for toilet facilities. Perhaps unique among South Carolina homes of similar vintage, the staircase is at the side (northeast corner) entrance rather than the common front entry hall location.(1)

Landsford Plantation achieved local prominence as the social center of a large ( three thousand acres) Piedmont cotton plantation in the mid-nineteenth century. The house is believed to have been built by Frederick William Davie on the plantation he inherited from his father, General William Richardson Davie, noted soldier, statesman, and Governor of North Carolina.(2) The date 1828, pressed into a brick in the east elevation chimney, is believed to be the approximate date of construction.(3) Techniques and materials used in constructing the house, such as hand cut lathing and hewn sills, porcelain door knobs, machine cut nails, and sash cut rafters, are common to a Piedmont planter's house constructed at that time.(4) In addition, several stones in the foundation are of material and bear tool marks similar to stones used to construct nearby Landsford Canal, which was completed in 1823.(5) Written documentation also supports a construction date between 1825 and 1850. The house was neither mentioned in General Davie's will of 1819 nor in Robert Mills' Atlas of South Carolina of 1825, although two other Davie family residences were mentioned in the will and the atlas. When the plantation was put up for sale in 1892 the section near the house was referred to as the "house tract".(6) W.S. Garrison, who occupied the house beginning in 1899, stated that the house was considered to be an old one when he moved there.(7) In addition, since the ownership of the plantation was contested from 1850 until 1892, it is unlikely that such a substantial house would have been constructed during that period.(8) All of the known evidence tends to confirm the ca. 1828 date of construction. Landsford was occupied by various descendants of General Davie over the period during which his will was contested.(9) The last Davie to occupy Landsford Plantation was Colonel William R. Davie, great-grandson of the General.(10) The house was sold outside the Davie family in 1898 and was occupied by the Garrisons until the 1950s.(11)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chester County Deed Books: Books A, pp. 478, 481, 484, and 487; D, pp. 273, 274, 344, and 346; H, pp. 457, 462, 464, 558, and 561; X, p. 132; TT, p. 705; 75, pp. 158 and 199; 83, p. 666.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Catawba

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 1 7 5 0 8 1 8 0 3 8 4 9 0 0 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B 1 7 5 0 8 1 0 0 3 8 4 8 8 0 0  
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 7 5 0 7 9 4 0 3 9 4 8 8 6 0

D 1 7 5 0 8 0 1 0 3 8 4 9 0 6 0

E                                             

F                                             

G                                             

H                                             

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Landsford Plantation nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Chester County Tax Map # 153, drawn at a scale of 660 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the historic house and barn and their setting.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code    county N/A code   

state N/A code    county N/A code   

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Sumter Carter

with the assistance of the National Register staff, S.C. Dept of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C. 29211

organization   

date 4 September 1986

street & number 2303 Forest Garden Drive

telephone (713) 360-5062

city or town Kingwood

state Texas 77345

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/12/86

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

John H. Brown  
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/4/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received <i>7/25/86</i>
date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 2

NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Discussion with John Wells, Architectural Historian, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, July 1985.

<sup>2</sup>Bedon V. Davie, Supreme Court Reporter, 144 U.S. 142; W. Clark, "General William Richardson Davie," Magazine of American History, December 1892.

<sup>3</sup>Elizabeth Reed, "Ancient House in Rowells Recalled as One-Time House of Davie Family," The Herald, 15 June 1950.

<sup>4</sup>Discussion with Wells.

<sup>5</sup>Marion Edmonds, "Landsford Canal, A Dream That Never Came True," The Lancaster News, 11 March 1985.

<sup>6</sup>Chester County Wills, Volume 2, Book G, pp. 43-49; Robert Mills, Atlas of the State of South Carolina n.p., n.p., 1825; new facsimile ed., Columbia: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant H. Thornley, 1938; Chester County Deed Books, Book 75, p. 197.

<sup>7</sup>Reed, "Ancient House in Rowells . . ."

<sup>8</sup>Bedon V. Davie.

<sup>9</sup>Bedon V. Davie; Reed, "Ancient House in Rowells . . ."

<sup>10</sup>Reed, "Ancient House in Rowells . . ."; Chester County Deed Books, Book 75, p. 199.

<sup>11</sup>Chester County Deed Books, Book 83, p. 666; Interview with Della R. Garrison, July 1983.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received *11/25/80*  
date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bedon V. Davie, Supreme Court Reporter, 144 U.S. 142.

Chester County Deeds and Chester County Wills, Chester County Courthouse,  
Chester, South Carolina.

Clark, W. "General William Richardson Davie." Magazine of American History,  
December 1892.

Nancy Crockett to James S. Carter, March 1984.

Nancy Crockett to James S. Carter, May 1984.

Edmonds, Marion. "Landsford Canal, A Dream That Never Came True." The  
Lancaster News, 11 March 1985.

Interview with Della R. Garrison, July 1983.

Mills, Robert. Atlas of the State of South Carolina. n.p., n.p., 1825; new  
facsimile ed., Columbia: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant H. Thornley,  
1938.

Louise Pettus to James S. Carter, March 1984.

Reed, Elizabeth. "Ancient House in Rowells Recalled as One-Time House of  
Davie Family." The Herald, 15 June 1950.

Robinson, Blackwell P. William R. Davie. Chapel Hill: University of  
North Carolina Press, 1957.

Interview with John Wells, Architectural Historian, South Carolina Department  
of Archives and History, July 1985.