

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: Dillon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 15 1972	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Early Cotton Press

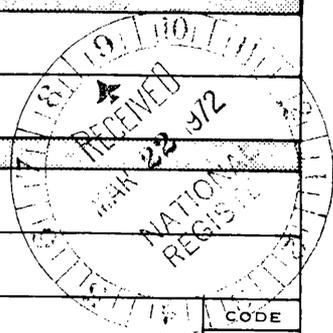
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1/2 mile west of intersection of Routes 917 and 38

CITY OR TOWN:  
near Latta

STATE South Carolina	CODE 45	COUNTY: Dillon	CODE 033
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Eloise H. Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1459 W. Palmetto Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Florence

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Dillon County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dillon

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969     Federal     State     County     Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

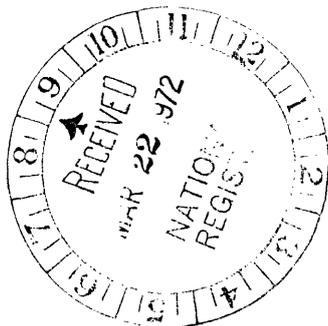
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original location at "Berrys' Crossroads", former site of sawmill and other plantation works, three miles west of Latta. Present location in open field 1/2 mile west of intersection of Routes 917 and 38.

Built 1798 for baling ginned cotton, <sup>the</sup> press constructed of pegged and doweled oak. <sup>was</sup> Shingled roof attached to and covers <sup>the</sup> chiseled oak screw .16 inches in diameter. <sup>the</sup> Screw still in working condition. Two shingled booms hinged at roof. Four large doweled beams support and balance structure. Press box housed at center of beams.

According to Walter F. Petty, F.A.I.A., press has "excellent joinery, especially fine chisel work on wood screw."

Original materials in entire structure except for minor repairs at base of legs and on shingled roof.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1798

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Manual Craftsmanship (by slave artisans)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant in the field of Rural Industry as the only remaining cotton press of this era in South Carolina which used mule power. Although not now in use, it remains in excellent condition and illustrates the primary machine which baled ginned cotton.

Built and located at "Berry's Crossroads" by Stephen Berry in 1798. Purchased and moved to its present location (1/2 mile west of intersection of Routes 917 and 38, not far from original site) in 1850 by an uncle of Mrs. John Calhoun Hayes to preserve as a structure identified with local industry and as a curiosity to passersby.

Recorded October, 1961, for HABS Survey by Walter F. Petty, A.I.A., Committee on Preservation; William Keenan III, Preservation Officer, South Carolina Chapter. Mrs. John Calhoun Hayes owned the early cotton press at the time of the HABS Survey. According to Walter Petty, F.A.I.A., it is an excellent example of manual craftsmanship and "should be preserved as historic example of slave artisans work on plantation." All parts are hand carved and, except for several repairs, original material.



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Julien, Carl and Dabbs, James McBride. Pee Dee Panorama. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1951.

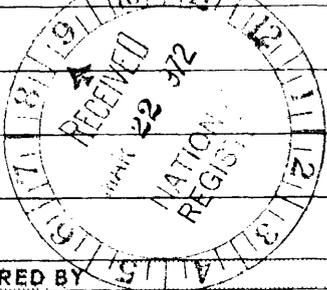
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34	20	11.2
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	79	31	11.2
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1/2 acre.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Dollie McGrath, Historic Resources Assistant (NRR - Historic Preservation Div)

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: 8/4/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

**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  
Charles E. Lee

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History

Date Mar. 4, 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/15/72

ATTEST:  
William J. Stantogh  
Keeper of The National Register

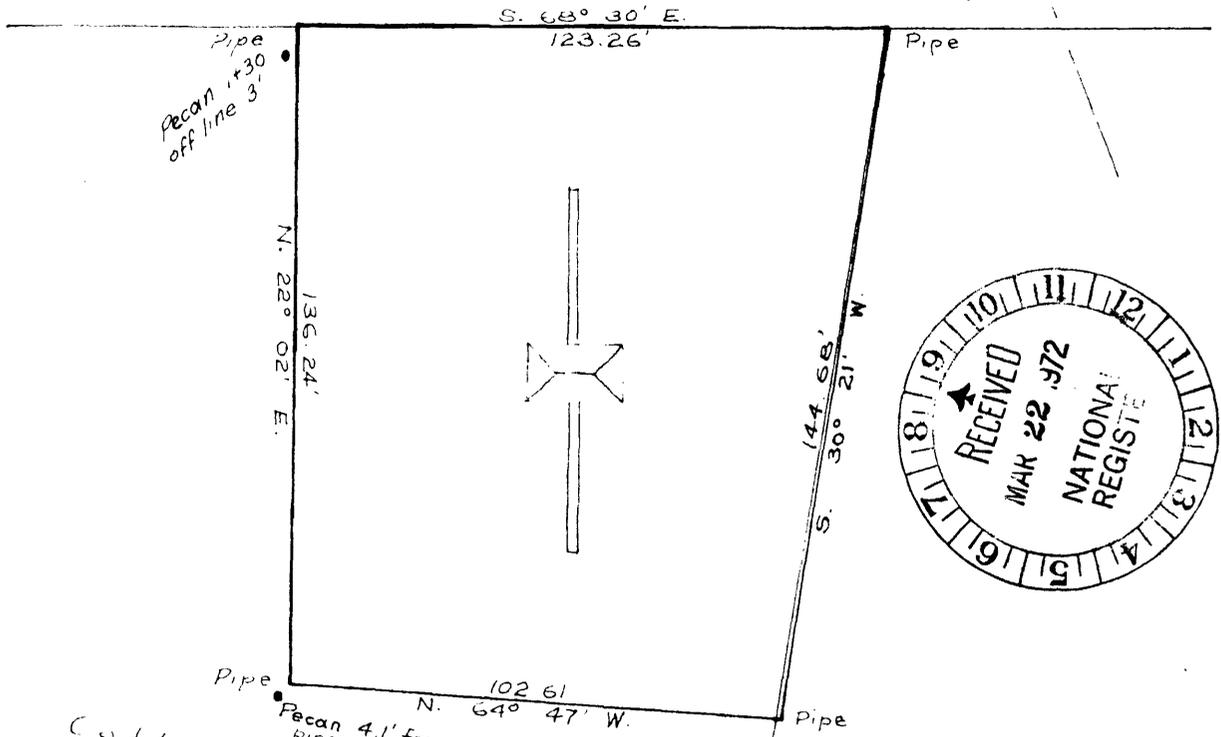
Date 11.14.72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1/2 mile to  
L 95

1/2 mile to  
Jct. W/  
SC Hwy 917

S. C. Highway 38



Cotton Press Plantation  
 owned by  
 Eloise Hayes Smith

# PLAT

of a lot of "The Cotton Press" located  
 approximately 5 miles west of Latta, in Dillon  
 County, S. C., surveyed for

Dillon County Historical Society

Scale 1" = 40'

23 July 1971

C. O Epps, Surveyor