

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	DATE
	JUL 24 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Selkirk Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Reverend James A. Cousar House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *E of Bingham on old Cashua Ferry Road*  
On old Cashua Ferry Road (Hwy 28) 3 1/2 miles east of Bingham, S. C.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dillon, S.C.

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Dillon      CODE: 033

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:  
Harold N. Cousar, Jr., RFD #1, Latta, South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route #1

CITY OR TOWN:  
Latta

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Marion County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Marion

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal     State     County     Local

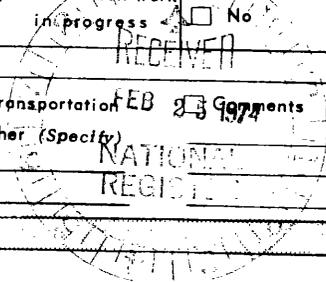
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 24 1974

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior:

Setkirk Farm is a one-story clapboard Greek Revival cottage built for Reverend James A. Cousar in 1858 by his slave Case Cousar. The front of the house is in its original condition except for the brick steps and concrete foundation sections that were twentieth century additions. The pediment porch with four square columns and low wooden railings frames the central two-thirds of the facade. The gable roof of the porch is perpendicular to the gable roof of the central rectangular block of the house, which is framed by two exterior brick chimneys on each side of the structure. The original front door with seven pane sidelights and eight pane transom is flanked by two pairs of shuttered 9/9 sash windows.

The house rests on brick foundation pillars, about three feet above the ground. The space beneath the house was originally open, but the spaces between the brick pillars have been filled in with concrete blocks. The gables and cornices of the roofs are boxed and pedimented. All wood work is painted white except for the shutters and unpainted doors. Additions made in the rear of the house between 1880 and 1910 have almost doubled the depth of the structure. These additions include a wing to the left rear and the enclosure of a porch.

Interior:

Originally the house had a central hallway leading from front to back with three rooms on the left of the hall and two rooms on the right. A porch continued where the hallway left off alongside the extra room on the left. In the 1880s or 1890s a kitchen was added behind the dining room on the right. In 1910 a large dining room was added onto the side of the kitchen; the early dining room was converted into a bedroom and the porch was enlarged. In 1918 a large bedroom was added to the back of the house and the porch again extended. Today the porch is enclosed and used as a living room at the rear of the house. All additions have been to the rear; the front of the house has been unchanged.

The framing is of hand hewn and dressed heart pine. Floors and ceilings are of wide plank boards. The hardware is original and in excellent condition. Six pieces of the original furniture made by the slave carpenter Case Cousar are still in the house, as well as original mantelpieces, wainscotting and mouldings.

Surroundings:

The house is enclosed by a white picket fence. Large hardwood trees as well as rose bushes and shrubs landscape the lot. Some of the trees tower above the house and provide attractive cover and shade.

An antebellum cotton gin located approximately 300 yards to the west of the house contains gin machinery that is intact and could be made operational. The original well with wood curbing between the house and the gin house is no longer used.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1858**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Black History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Selkirk Farm, built in 1858, was the home of Reverend James A. Cousar and has continuously been occupied by his descendants. The house is near the site of Reedy Creek Presbyterian Church where Reverend Cousar had his first ministry. Reverend Cousar was noted for his work with black congregations. The original portion of Selkirk Farm was built by Case Cousar, Reverend Cousar's slave.

Architecture: The house has been occupied continuously since its construction in 1858; unlike many houses of the region, this particular structure has remained relatively unchanged since 1858 and the front section is untouched except for the addition of steps and underpinning. The simplicity and rather classic proportions of the Selkirk Farm house is rather unusual in a county which has many heavier late Victorian and stylized Greek Revival buildings. The high chimneys, reminiscent of those of the Carolina lowcountry, the sidelighted and transomed front entrance, and the raised and open front porch create a general impact of lightness and harmony.

Agriculture: In 1850, a Presbyterian minister's salary from Synod was only \$300 per year; for this reason, Reverend Cousar supplemented his salary with his farm of 177 acres. He later purchased a cotton gin, and generally improved his estate. During this period, the upper Pee Dee region of South Carolina was heavily settled by Scottish Presbyterians, similar to Reverend Cousar, who became the most prosperous planters and traders in the area.

Social/Humanitarian/Black History: Both before and after the abolishment of slavery, Reverend James A. Cousar was active in the organization of black congregations. The policy of helping blacks build their own churches was controversial, and church property was often destroyed by vigilantes who disagreed with this practice. Before the War Between the States about half the members of Harmony Presbytery, Reverend Cousar's district, were slaves. He donated land for two black churches, one in Bishopville and one on his own property.

Religion: Reverend James A. Cousar, son of a Presbyterian minister, served as the clerk of the Harmony Presbytery of South Carolina, in the Pee Dee area. Reverend Cousar studied at Oglethorpe University and graduated from the Columbia Theological Seminary. He was licensed to preach in 1855. His first field consisted of two country churches - the Reedy Creek Presbyterian Church and the Carolina Presbyterian Church. Between 1868 and 1882 he ministered in other churches-the Little Pee Dee Congregation, the Red Bluff Congregation, the Mayesville Congregation, and two churches in Conway, fifty miles from his home.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cousar, Reverend James E. Down the Waxhaw Road: The Life Story of the Reverend John Cousar, 1953.

Howe, George. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina. Columbia: W. J. Duffie Company, 1883.

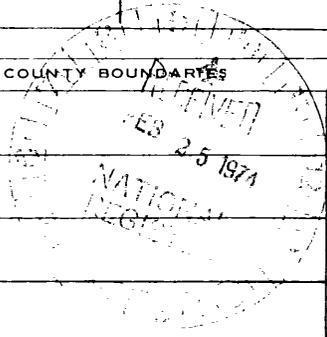
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	28	04
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79	29	55
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Three acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **John C. Henagan**      **John W. Califf, III (Historic Preservation Division)**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History**      DATE: **January 3, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street**

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: Director, South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History  
 Date: Jan. 28, 1974

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

Albert W. Martens  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/24/74

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7-19-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS