5. Political & Military Affairs

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Darby Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. Route 25, 3 mi. S of Edgefield, on S side of road

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

COUNTY:
Edgefield

CODE:
037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

District
Site
Structure
Object

Building
Private
Both

OWNERSHIP
Public
Private
In Process
Being Considered

STATUS
Occupied
Unoccupied
Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Yes:
Restricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural
Commercial
Educational
Entertainment

Government
Industrial
Military
Museum

Park
Private Residence
Religious
Scientific

Transportation
Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wise

STREET AND NUMBER:
Darby Plantation

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Edgefield County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Edgefield

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY:
1973

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
Exterior: This two-story white plantation house was built ca. 1842 on a cotton plantation. Although the structure's style is basically that of an upcountry farmhouse, there is evidence of Greek revival influence that can be seen in the square columns, boxed cornices, entrance treatment, and first-floor window lintels. The front porch is the most impressive feature of the house and extends half way around the building. Delicate white wooden balusters fill the spaces between the columns, which support the porch roof. The front door has transoms, side lights, and a pediment.

The 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters have shaped lintels on the first floor. The house is five bayed; there are five windows on both the front and rear facades of the second story, and four windows with a central door on the front of the first story. A one-room, one-story brick addition to the rear and back porch mask the original appearance of the first floor at the rear, but the sides of the house have four original windows on the second story. The first story has additions of rooms on the wings created by the space beneath the porch roof. Two rear-slope interior chimneys punctuate the long roofline. The front porch has a flight of seven steps leading to the main entrance; to this a modern wrought-iron hand railing has been added.

Interior: The original brick in this house, in the chimney and fireplace, as well as in the foundations, was made on the plantation itself. The floors are original and are of heart pine. The original hand-carved mouldings around the doors and windows remain. The main rooms measure 20 feet by 20 feet, with 12 foot ceilings.

Modern bathrooms have been added, and the porch extensions on the sides have been altered. The rear-addition family room of the house contains a collection of old firearms and other plantation relics.

Surroundings: There was a terraced garden in front of the house in the 19th Century and a few old rose bushes still remain. There is a circular drive in front of the house and old hardwood trees are located around the house.
Darby Plantation was built ca. 1842 by Nathaniel Lipscomb Griffith for his daughter, who married Miledge Luke Bonham. Bonham, prominent in military affairs, was Governor of South Carolina from 1862 to 1864.

This plantation house served as his residence from 1845 until the outbreak of the War Between the States.

Military: Miledge Luke Bonham, born in 1815 at Edgefield, graduated from South Carolina College in 1835. During the Seminole War, he served on the staff of General W. M. Bull. In the Mexican War he was a colonel under the command of General Franklin Pierce, who later became President of the United States. Bonham also served as military governor for one of the Mexican provinces. In 1860, he was appointed major general and given command of the South Carolina troops, but in that same year he was transferred to the Virginia campaigns. As brigadier general in the War Between the States, he served with distinction at the battles of Bull Run (Manassas) and Blackburn's Ford. He returned to the military in 1864 after having served for two years as governor of South Carolina.

Political: Bonham began a law career immediately after graduating from South Carolina College in 1835. From 1848 to 1850, he was solicitor for a circuit court and in 1852 began a four year term in the state legislature. In 1856 he was elected to the United States Congress as a States Rights Democrat, filling Preston Brooks' vacant seat. He was re-elected without opposition, but resigned in 1860 with the rest of the South Carolina delegation when the state seceded.

Bonham served in the Confederate Congress until 1862, often disagreeing with the leadership of Jefferson Davis. He was elected Governor of South Carolina in 1862 and served until 1864. As governor, he was primarily concerned with coordinating military and civilian activities, increasing the productivity of the economy, and keeping up wartime morale.

From 1865 to 1868, he again served in the state legislature and attended the Democratic National Convention in 1868. In 1876 he became active in the Red Shirt movement in an effort to rid the state of Radical rule. From 1878 until his death in 1890, he served as the State Railroad Commissioner.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Governor's Papers (1862-1864), S.C. Archives. Columbia, S.C.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Mrs. Matthew H. Mims, Edgefield
John Califf, Historic Preservation Division County Historical Society
South Carolina Department of Archives and History May 6, 1974

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/13/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register 5/1/74