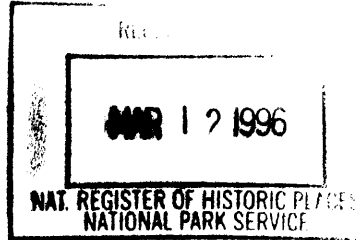


United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Friendfield Plantation  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Friendfield Road not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Georgetown vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Georgetown code 043  
zip code 29440

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally  statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 3/6/96  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S. C. Department of Archives and History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 4-12-96 Entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>23</u>	<u>14</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u> objects
		<u>52</u>	<u>17</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Georgetown County Rice Culture, c. 1750-1910

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>AGRICULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>agricultural fields</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>irrigation facility</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single or double dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING</u>	<u>processing site</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>forest</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>garden</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>outdoor recreation</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>road-related</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>water-related</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>AGRICULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>agricultural fields</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>irrigation facility</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>forest</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>garden</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>outdoor recreation</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>road-related</u>

7. Description

**Architectural Classification Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/</u>	<u>foundation</u> <u>Brick</u>
<u>Colonial Revival</u>	<u>roof</u> <u>Metal</u>
	<u>walls</u> <u>Weatherboard</u>
	<u>other</u> <u>Asphalt</u>

**Narrative Description**  
 (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
 (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Ethnic Heritage: Black
- Industry
- Landscape Architecture
- Maritime History
- Social History
- Transportation

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1790      ca. 1830  
1930  
1936

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Mellor and Meigs

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1750 - 1930  
1930 - 1946

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 3,305

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>656380</u>	<u>3695060</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>655680</u> <u>3691480</u>
2	<u>17</u>	<u>656720</u>	<u>3692080</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>650300</u> <u>3696000</u>
	<u>X</u>	See continuation sheet.				

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Fick  
organization Preservation Consultants, Inc. date October 1995  
street & number P. O. Box 1112 telephone 803-723-1746  
city or town Charleston state SC zip code 29402

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Daniel K. Thorne, Friendfield Plantation, Inc.  
street & number Post Office Box 616 telephone 803-546-6608  
city or town Georgetown state S. C. zip code 29442

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).  
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Addendum to #5: Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Buildings

Friendfield House Complex	5
Mount Pleasant House	1
Barnyard Complex	4
Slave Street	6
Manager's House Complex	5
Assistant Manager's House and Garage	<u>2</u>
Total Contributing Buildings	23

Contributing Sites

Friendfield House Grounds	1
Longleaf pine forest	1
Bonny Neck Tar Mound	1
Ricefield systems: five tidal systems	5
Friendfield-Mount Pleasant Rice Mill Island	1
Three Cemeteries	3
Site of structure at Creek Road Bridge	1
Midway House Rubble	<u>1</u>
Total Contributing Sites	14

Contributing Structures

Gateposts at entry and Friendfield House Complex	2
Fish Factory Oil Tank, Fish Oil Vat, Truck Scale, Dock Foundation	4
Friendfield-Barnyard Road	1
Midway-Canaan Avenue	1
Fencebank Road	1
Long Avenue	1
Fish Factory Road	1
Picnic Shed Road	1
Creek Road	1
Sixty-Foot Road	1
Schoolhouse Road	<u>1</u>
Total Contributing Structures	15

Non-contributing Elements

Friendfield House pumphouse	1
Kennel and pumphouse	2
Shelter barn	1
Clubhouse and pumphouse	2
Slave street privies and pumphouse	4
Office and pumphouse	2
Creek Road bridge over Canaan Branch	1
Assistant Manager's House pumphouse	1
Picnic Shed	1
Power lines	<u>2</u>
Total Non-contributing Elements	17

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**Narrative description**

Friendfield Plantation is a property of 3,305 acres, consisting of parts of six antebellum rice plantations: Friendfield, Mount Pleasant, Midway, Canaan, Waterfield (Westfield) and Bonny Neck. The greatest portion of the property is in woodlands and some open fields at the north and west sections; at the south and east are ricefields, banks and ditches. The terrain varies from gently rolling across the east and north to very level along the water's edge. The western (Ports Creek) and southern (Sampit River) edges are only a few feet above salt water.

Friendfield Plantation is bounded generally by the Sampit River, Whites Creek, Ports Creek, Highway 521 (Highmarket Street) and the Seaboard Coast Line Railway. The head of Friendfield Road is three miles northwest of the Georgetown County Courthouse; Friendfield Plantation House is one and one-half mile west of the International Paper Company mill.

Friendfield Plantation includes about 500 acres of former ricefields and over 2,000 acres of pine forest, mostly longleaf managed in unevenly-aged stands. Since the 1930s, the plantation has been managed as a quail preserve and winter hunting retreat. Along with the ricefields and woodlands, cultural resources on Friendfield Plantation include two significant clusters of buildings: the Friendfield House and Outbuildings and the Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) House, Slave Street, and Outbuildings. There are two historic staff residences with small-scale outbuildings, three cemeteries, several ruins with visible above-ground features, and a number of known or suspected settlement sites without above-ground elements. The variety of historic uses on Friendfield Plantation is evidenced by tar kiln mounds, a fish oil and scrap factory tanks, and stones remaining at the site of a former rice mill. Five principal road systems run south toward settlement sites near the former rice fields, and are linked by two east-west systems.

Friendfield Plantation's early division into six plantations dictated placement of the roads, upland drainage ditches, and ricefield canals that in turn shaped the use of the land. Since the 1930s, the plantation has been partitioned into four quail hunting courses, each of about 500 acres. This division left no visible impact on the land, but rather serves to knit the separate plantations together as Friendfield. The appearance of the vegetation itself - trees, shrubs, bushes and grasses - reflects sixty-five years of intensive management for bobwhite quail.

**Contributing Resources**

**1. Friendfield House and Grounds**

The Friendfield House complex is located on the neck of a peninsula that extends along the west side of Whites Creek. The complex is at the end of the east fork of Friendfield Avenue, one and one-quarter mile south of the plantation gate posts. Friendfield House was constructed for the Radcliffe Cheston family on the site of the nineteenth century Francis Withers house (burned in 1926). The house was first built in 1931, with an arcade added along the west side of the north wing in 1936. Both designs were the work of a single architect. The house retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials and workmanship throughout. The architecture of the original section is very typical of the Colonial Revival influence that is seen in other plantation houses of the period; the Italianate styling of the wing provides an individual touch.<sup>1</sup>

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Architect Arthur I. Meigs (1882-1956) was a friend of the Cheston family, and had also designed their summer home in Dark Harbor, on Isleboro, Maine. In partnership with Walter Mellor (Mellor and Meigs), he practiced architecture in Philadelphia from 1906 to 1940. The firm was well-known for their country house designs.<sup>2</sup>

Friendfield House is a rectangular two-story frame building clad in beaded weatherboard, with a side-hipped metal roof, a three bay wide portico at the south facade, an off-center two-story wing at the north elevation, and a one-story wing at the east elevation. There are two chimneys at the main core and one at each wing. The house rests on a partially excavated raised brick basement, much of which is the stabilized and reused foundation of the nineteenth century house. Because the foundation was retained and chimneys rebuilt in the earlier locations, the house is often said to have been designed as a replica of the Withers house. The design and plan are in fact quite different from that structure. One similarity is the fanlight at the portico gable end, reminiscent of the fanlight in a gable roofline projection at the facade of the earlier house. Modillion blocks at the cornice resemble those of the Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) House, while the cornice of the original Friendfield House was plain.

The five-bay wide south facade features a full-height pedimented gable portico supported by four Tuscan columns with simple acanthus-leaf capitals. Fenestration is regular, with 9/9 windows, and louvered shutters at the outer bays. The entry surround is enframed with fluted pilasters supporting a corbeled cornice with dentil frieze; there is a large leaded-glass fanlight and leaded-glass sidelights. Centered in the portico ceiling is a large oval medallion with sunflower and acanthus or tobacco-leaf motif. A sandstone patio extends across the facade, with broad bluestone steps descending to a low octagonal terrace laid in brick.

The principal interior spaces of Friendfield House are large regular rooms with 12'10" ceilings, plaster walls with either paneled wainscot or chair rails, and open wood-burning fireplaces with Neoclassical or Greek Revival-style mantelpieces.

The center hall runs straight through the house, opening to principal entries at the south portico and north loggia. At the west side are living room (south), coat closet, and small library (north); at the east are dining room (south), stair, and kitchen (behind stair). Doors from the hall and within the principal rooms have paneled false transoms bearing a Neoclassical Revival urn with swags. Living room, dining room, and hall have paneled wainscots. The wainscot in the living room was removed from the eighteenth century Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) House; new paneling for the other spaces was detailed to match it. The heavy double cornice in the living room, with modillions and dentilled frieze, was also removed from Mount Pleasant. The living room fireplace has a marble surround, and simple mantelpiece with a dentil pattern copied from the cornice. The dining room mantelpiece is detailed with reeds and wicking. Molded double cornices in dining room and hall are unadorned.

The library features a curved bookcase wall with center fireplace and a small powder room. The mantelpiece is a plain shelf, and the entire room is paneled in dark wood reclaimed from a house in North Carolina.

Along the east wall of the hall, the straight stair rises to a mezzanine and upstairs hall. Two principal bedrooms across the south front of the house are nearly identical, with molded double cornice, chair rail, identical Neoclassical

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Revival fireplace mantels, and spacious bathrooms. A small bedroom at the west corner, above the library, has a smaller bathroom and plain mantel shelf.

The north wing, only half the width of the main house, is a service and sleeping wing. There is no separate access from the west or north elevations. At its east elevation is a service entry, a one-story hipped porch with columns and balustrade. The first floor of the wing extends service space from the kitchen along a short hall to a rear workroom; there is a closet-like rear stair to the second level. The second level of the wing opens to the main hall at the head of the principal stair. At the far end, overlooking the entry drive, is a bedroom with plain mantelpiece and small bathroom. Two small sleeping or sitting rooms are placed at either side of the back stair. Ceilings in the north wing have been replaced by sheetrock.

A one-story wing extending east from the kitchen area is accessible through an entry at its north elevation and opens into the pantry. At its far end is a bedroom with an arched opening, small bath, and fireplace with mantel shelf. The gunroom at the center of the wing has an oversized sink and racks for guns, coats and wading boots. Both wings have 10' ceilings and 6/6 windows.

The kitchen, pantry and workrooms are functional spaces that connect the main rooms and wings of Friendfield House. The architect's original plans carefully laid out the workspaces and provided details for cabinet and pantry construction. The working pantry, with monel metal sink and countertops and wood-and-glass cabinets stretching to ceiling height, provides space for a large staff.

The only significant alteration to Friendfield House was the 1936 remodeling, which transformed the north elevation from a rear wing to a principal entry. Like the Withers house, the Cheston house was oriented south, toward the water. Unlike earlier owners, however, the Chestons opened up the front lawn as a broad park, seeding rye grass under the oak grove. They soon found that having cars drive into the front yard interrupted the space. To find a way to accommodate both cars and aesthetics, in 1936 they invited architect Meigs to return to Friendfield. He redesigned the rear elevation to create a principal entry on the land side of the house, adding an arcaded flat-roofed loggia with Italianate detailing at the inner (west) side. The weatherboard was removed and the wall stuccoed; cast-stone detail work punctuates columns and wall. Steps from the car park lead through a single arch into the loggia and two steps lead up to the Friendfield House entry. A set of low bluestone steps runs the length of the open west side.

The Long Island firm of Innocenti and Webel, landscape architects, completed the alteration. Umberto Innocenti was popular among South Carolina's winter colonists, and had recently designed the garden at Wedgefield for the Cheston's friend Robert Golet. Innocenti reorganized the entire Friendfield House Complex to connect the entry areas, main house, and lawn, gardens and outbuildings. He added a low patio alongside the new loggia, with an oblong pool centered by a floral fountain of wrought iron, and brick steps leading toward the main lawn. To the south, at the west side of the main house, is a raised formal garden built partly on the foundation of a wing of the Withers House. Innocenti added pierced-brick walls with iron gates, brick paths, and small planting beds around a small circular fish pool. Along the east side of the house the drive was widened as a service parking court, and the driveway through the front yard was abandoned. A well in the southwest lawn was stabilized and brick housing rebuilt.



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A pair of brick gateposts was erected on the entry causeway, north of the small pond fed by Whites Creek. Said to have been a slave-built water garden, the pond and its small island were cleaned and replanted, extending the landscaping to the gate. From the gate to the south side of the water garden, the route was lined with magnolias, and a small formal carpark accented with a brick mounting block brought guests to the new loggia.<sup>3</sup>

The setting of Friendfield House includes the formal outdoor rooms adjacent to the building, water garden, drives and courtyards, the oak park south of the house, and the spaces around each outbuilding that set them aside from the grounds of which they are part.

Historic outbuildings in the complex include two staff cottages, a woodshed, and a stable. Two cottages are said to have been first built in the late 1920s, before Radcliffe Cheston acquired Friendfield. Peter Small's house, nearer the main house, was built ca. 1933 to replace a small cabin that had burned, and designed to match the remaining house. From ca. 1942 until 1965, Mr. Small worked as Cheston's personal assistant at Friendfield, living in this cottage for six or seven months a year. After Cheston's death, Small continued his seasonal employment at Friendfield until his retirement a few years ago.

Facing south on line with each other, the two three-bay wide cottages were designed in the lowcountry vernacular. A side-gabled V-crimped metal roof is extended at front and rear, covering a full-facade porch with posts and slat balustrade (now insect screened) and a one-bay deep rear wing with centered entry. There are single 6/6 windows with single leaf vertical-board shutters at facade and side elevations. Foundations are brick pier, and an exterior chimney rises at one side elevation.

Peter Small's house has been refurbished as a guest house, without significant alteration. The interior retains beaded board paneling at walls and ceiling. The two-room floor plan with rear shed section has been retained, with modern kitchen and bathroom equipment being added at the rear wing. The bricked-over firebox was not reopened, and the missing mantel shelf was not replaced. The earlier (western) cabin has been refurbished as a library. Partition walls were removed to provide for one large space, with corner bathroom. The firebox was reopened, and simple shelf mantel restored.

Between the two cottages is the woodshed, a side-gabled V-crimped metal roof supported by simple wood poles. Roofing and poles have been replaced, but the shed retains integrity of location and form and is considered a contributing building. An outdoor nursery nearby has been discontinued. Here Peter Small and others rooted camellias and a few azaleas, and stored the large numbers of bulbs ordered by the Chestons every year for late-winter blooms.<sup>4</sup>

The "house stable" was used by the family's ponies, who could be brought up from the main barn to be convenient to the Friendfield House. It is a small rectangular horse barn, one stall wide, with six loose boxes and a tackroom/feedroom. It has a steep-pitched gable roof, broken to form shedrows at the long elevations, with a ladder to the loft opening. Stalls have double doors at each side, opening to the shed rows and to a small paddock enclosure at the west side. A brick mounting block remains between the stable and the driveway. The only alteration is the mid-1970s conversion of one stall as a terrier kennel and run.<sup>5</sup>

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The only non-contributing element in the Friendfield House Complex is the pumphouse north of the service driveway, opposite the woodshed. Built of cinderblock in 1973, the pumphouse is screened by a grove of bamboo.

**2. Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) House and Barnyard**

Local tradition holds that the "Silver Hill House" at Mount Pleasant was built in 1794. A copy of a plat made in 1811 depicts Mount Pleasant, Midway, Canaan, part of Waterfield, and pinelands north of Highway 521 as property of Robert Francis Withers (1771-1827), one of the wealthiest men in Prince George, Winyah, Parish. he is said to have lived in the Mount Pleasant House.

Other occupants have not been identified. The house is sometimes referred to as the "Overseer's House." After Francis Withers of Friendfield acquired Mount Pleasant, an overseer may have lived there. Situated between two slave settlements, and with a view of the ricefields, the house is well-located for an overseer's residence. Occupancy after the Civil War is not certain. The house was vacant during the McClarys' ownership of Friendfield (1919-1925), and is known not to have been used at all since 1930.<sup>6</sup>

On a bluff facing south over the ricefields toward the Sampit River, the Mount Pleasant House is an excellent example of a late eighteenth century lowcountry planter's seat. It is certainly grand enough to have been home to one of Georgetown County's prosperous rice planters. The house is two and one-half stories, set on a foundation of 6' brick piers and clad in beaded weatherboard, with a fairly steeply pitched side-hipped roof pierced by two brick chimneys at the rear slope. The slightly asymmetrical facade is six bays wide at the ground floor, five bays at the second level, with modillions at the cornice all around the house. A one-story facade porch formerly wrapped around both side elevations. At the rear is a one-story integral shed section with three irregularly spaced window bays at the second level. There is an arched firebox at the ground level of the larger west chimney, which also serves a fireplace in one attic room. The east chimney has a supporting arch at ground level. Window sash are 9/9.

The facade entry is set just west of the center of its supporting arch, to accommodate a hallway window. There is a transom over the entry, which retains an early six-paneled door. The hallway, with plaster walls above a wainscot of wide horizontal boards, accesses two principal ground floor rooms, each with a fireplace at the rear wall, and the rear wing. The east parlor retains a simply detailed mantelpiece, paneled wainscot, some of the wall plaster, and a molded cornice. The ceiling was replaced with beaded board in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. There is an added closet at one side of the fireplace. The west room was the source of the wainscot and cornice for the living room of Friendfield House. The fabric was replaced by paneling salvaged from packing crates, so several panels are addressed "R. Cheston, Georgetown S. C." This room has also lost its mantelpiece.

Six-panel interior doors at first and second levels retain evidence of painted graining. The wainscot continues up the stair which rises along the west side of the hall to a short landing across the rear wall, then to the upstairs center hall. The first level newel is a plain chamfered post; upper newels are turned. Most of the slat balustrade is intact, and drop pendants remain in place. The hall and two chambers at the second level have chair railing instead of wainscot, and short

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molded cornices. The chambers both have replacement beaded board ceilings but retain wall plaster. The mantel has been lost from the west chamber, where a closet was also added. The low attic has a small center hall and two rooms, with a fireplace at the west chimney only. Evidence remains of three asymmetrically-placed dormers across the facade, and one at each side and the rear elevation.

Original layout of the rear shed wing has not been determined. It is divided into three rooms by beaded board and board-and-batten partition walls from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The inner wall of the center rear room features plaster above paneled wainscot, to match the principal spaces of the house. Side rooms each have a fireplace but no mantel. Walls in the east room are beaded board; the west room retains plaster at some walls.

The Withers House at Mount Pleasant offers a rare opportunity for historic building research. Alterations - loss of dormers, installation of closets, replacement material at walls and ceilings - need to be dated through careful inspection. Despite those changes, the loss of the porch and much of the interior plaster, and the removal of finishes from one room, the house is substantially unaltered. It has never had electric wiring or plumbing installed. It will be maintained in its present condition, with particular attention to fire and weather safety, while the owners of Friendfield Plantation develop a long-term plan for enhanced preservation and compatible use.

Adjacent to the early house are four historic twentieth century service buildings constructed during the Cheston ownership of Friendfield Plantation.

The barnyard stable is a rectangular horse barn with twelve loose boxes (six to a side), feed room and tack room. The stable is two stalls deep, without a center aisle, with steep-pitched gable roof and shedrows patterned like the house stable. Stalls open with side-sliding doors, and have horizontal louvered openings as windows. Each has a hayrick across the back wall that is supplied from the loft above. At the gable ends are exterior ladders to loft doors. The cement-floored tack and feed rooms are at the south end of the barn. Alterations have been limited to periodic maintenance, such as replacement of shed posts. The building is still in use, and is surrounded by two- and three-board paddock fencing with a modern metal stock gate.

The design of the stable, both in its distinctive roof detailing and in its plan, is unusual for a lowcountry winter stable, which more commonly have a U-shaped configuration of stalls and workrooms around an inner yard, or a broad central aisle between boxes.

Beyond the stable to the north is the corn barn. Like the stable and equipment barns, it has weatherboard siding and V-crimped metal side-gable roof. There is a concrete-slab foundation, wire mesh around interior walls and ceiling, and ventilation louvers high on the side walls. There is a single entry at each lateral elevation, and ladders to the loft doors. The corn barn is substantially unaltered.

Two open equipment barns at right angles to each other complete the functional barnyard. The northern barn is five bays wide under a side-gabled V-crimped metal roof with shiplap cladding at the gable end. It is used to shelter trucks, tractors, trailers, etc. The larger barn has six unevenly spaced bays for storage of larger equipment, and two enclosed rooms at its north end. These rooms have full

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wood flooring and louvered openings for ventilation. Like the corn barn, the interiors are mesh-screened.

Hunting dogs were traditionally kept in the barnyard area, in a series of small temporary kennels used only during the season. Improved veterinary medicine allows dogs to summer in the lowcountry, and a modern year-round kennel has been constructed. It is a low wood-frame building with cement runs and chain link fence that is considered non-contributory. To its north, at the east side of Barnyard Road, is a recently built shelter barn, with a lateral gable roof.

**3. Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) Slave Row**

The Mount Pleasant slave street extends west from Friendfield Road toward the Mount Pleasant ("Silver Hill") House. Despite gaps in the cartographic record, it is evident that there have been two distinct slave streets on Mount Pleasant. A plat of Robert F. Withers' lands made in 1811 shows 33 cabins slightly north of the main house, extending in a double file west from Barnyard Road. Six of them may have remained in 1872; none were mapped in 1911, and none of them remain today.

The existing slave street is not shown at all on the 1811 plat. The next clear references are maps from the early 1870s, which show three parallel rows of from 10 to 13 buildings each. By the 1890s there seem to have been no more than 20 buildings. Only 14 were mapped in 1911 and 1920; today there are six: five single cabins and one duplex. In the chimney of one of the cabins is a brick etched "1823." This may indicate a construction date.<sup>7</sup> The location of the slave street lends credence to the idea that the houses were constructed by Francis Withers while Mount Pleasant House was being occupied by his overseer.

Between the wetlands feeding the Friendfield House water garden to the south and the plantation drainage ditch to the north, the slave street runs east-west through a slightly elevated cleared area. Along its south side, five cabins are shaded by mature longleaf pines; the double cabin is at the north side of the drive, at the summit of the low rise. The facades of the single cabins are 24'4" wide; the original core was just under 19' deep. The double cabin is 40'6" wide, and 18'6" deep. All have a medium-pitched gable roof, weatherboard siding, unglazed windows, and brick pier foundations; the double cabin has a centered chimney at the ridgeline, two facade entries, two small windows at each gable end, and a single loft opening in each vertical-board gable end. Four of the remaining single cabins each have a large brick exterior chimney at one gable end and centered entries with simple vertical-board door and three-light transoms at front and rear. The easternmost cabin retains original cornice returns, window frames, attic shutter, and corner boards. These conditions are typical of the other cabins. There do not appear to have been porches, and the stoops have been lost or replaced by cinderblock.

The double cabin has two entries at front and rear, accessing the two separate sections. These are connected today by an interior door. The halves have each been partitioned with rough-sawn lumber to create two small rooms at the outer bay, leaving a larger room around the central fireplace. Fireboxes at both sides have been bricked in, but retain simple mantel shelves. Interior finishes at the small one-roomed cabins vary. They were altered over time by their occupants, and are in the process of being stabilized and repaired. Most of the interior wall and ceiling

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cladding has been lost. That which remains is rough-sawn lumber or beaded-board paneling from the twentieth century.

The middle cabin of the five is set at a low elevation, the nearest building to the edge of the woods. At some point, apparently during the early twentieth century, it was remodeled as a barn. Ground level and attic flooring were removed, the chimney was taken down and a door added at the east gable end, and other door and window openings infilled. It was used for livestock belonging to tenants, and later for storage.

The slave street cabins were occupied seasonally or year-round until the last occupant vacated in 1974. All the buildings had additions at the south elevations, extending them from eight to sixteen feet, and electric power was run to most. They were measured and evaluated by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 1987. A letter from the Director of the Foundation's Architectural Research Department said that "the slave houses at Silver Hill were the best-maintained we saw in South Carolina."<sup>8</sup> The additions have been removed during the past year and the cabins have been stabilized. They will be maintained while a long-term preservation plan is developed and additional research undertaken.

Friendfield Church and five slave cabins were lost during the twentieth century. Sometime before he wrote his will (1841) Francis Withers built a "meeting house on my Friendfield Estate [where] the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church appointed a preacher to officiate..." The church was southwest of the double cabin, near a massive live oak tree that remains on the slave street. After the Civil War, although its association with the Methodist Church came to an end, the church remained in use as a plantation chapel. It was destroyed by fire, along with four houses on the slave street, in May 1940. Five pews were salvaged and relocated to Providence Baptist Church on Highway 17 at Pawleys Island. The owners of Friendfield plan to return them to the plantation for safekeeping.<sup>9</sup>

One more house has been lost from the Mount Pleasant settlement. It stood in a hollow about 20 yards to the rear of Mount Pleasant house, and may have been part of a separate group of buildings from the others in the street. When measured by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, its facade was found to be shorter than the remaining cabins (22'4"). Deteriorating conditions after Hurricane Hugo in 1989 caused it to collapse in 1994, and the lumber and roofing were removed from the site.<sup>10</sup>

Non-contributing elements at the slave street are unobtrusive. There are two wood privies and a concrete-block pumphouse at the south side of the street, near the edge of the woods, and a wood privy north of the double cabin. All these were added or reworked in the mid-twentieth century. There is also a small pumphouse associated with the office constructed in 1994. At the eastern end of the slave street, on line with the double cabin, the new construction was carefully designed to be compatible with the earlier buildings in size, scale and material. It provides functional space for Friendfield Plantation, Inc., without compromising the historic buildings.

#### 4. Other Residential Buildings

A recreational hunting plantation requires maintenance of ricefield impoundments, quail feeding grounds, buildings, roadways and animals. Well-built staff cottages

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are essential to the operation. Two remain on Friendfield Plantation: the manager's house and the assistant manager's house.

The manager's house was built in 1931. When Radcliffe Cheston bought Friendfield, he recruited Patrick C. McClary, Jr., son of a former owner, as his resident manager. According to family history, McClary was given the choice of having the "Overseer's House" (Mount Pleasant) renovated, or having a new house built. He opted for a new house, built at the east side of Friendfield Road.<sup>11</sup>

The frame house with shiplap siding is one-story on a brick foundation, with a front-facing gable composition shingle roof with side-gabled wing at the north (left) bays, and a partly-engaged gable porch at the south (right) bays. Windows are 6/6. There are knee braces and exposed rafter ends at the deep eaves, vent louvers at the gable ends, two interior chimneys and a substantial brick exterior chimney at the facade. The porch retains large posts and slat balustrade, and has insect screening. A lateral gable wing, extending to the south (right), was added at the rear of the house before 1960. In design and material it is compatible with the original structure. Mismatched windows are said to have been salvaged from other buildings on the plantation.

The slightly-elevated grounds of the manager's house are planted with camellias, moss-hung oaks, and a small lawn. Working outbuildings include a garage and work barn of corrugated metal, and two smaller wood-sided storage sheds. In design and setting the manager's house complex is a good example of a middle-class lowcountry farmhouse of the early 1930s.

The assistant manager's house is at the east side of Barnyard Road, .2 mile south of the fork from Friendfield Road. Smaller than the manager's house, it has a side-hipped roof with shallow eaves and exposed rafter ends, 6/6 window sash, a hipped porch across the three-bay facade, and oversized hewn sills supporting the structure. The house has been modernized several times. Changes have included enclosing and insect screening the porch, removing the original chimney, adding a rear gable wing with exterior chimney, and applying vinyl siding. Despite the changes, the form of the house remains, a modest cottage of a type built from 1910 to 1940. The hipped roof is less typical than the gable roof of the manager's house, and local tradition is that this is a prefabricated house. This seems unlikely, but it may be a prefabricated dwelling that was moved to this site from another location.

There are two outbuildings. The corrugated metal garage is said to have been built of material reclaimed from elsewhere on Friendfield. The metal here and at the manager's house outbuilding may have been salvaged from the fish factory. In size, mass and material the garage is a typical element on an early-to-mid twentieth century rural property. The more recent cinderblock pumphouse is considered non-contributing, although it does not detract from the integrity of Friendfield Plantation.

**5. Cultural Resources Associated with Transportation**

Most of the roads on Friendfield Plantation correlate with early plantation roads. The geographic factors - land elevation and water courses, access to highway and rivers - that directed the choice of roadbeds on the early rice plantations remain important on the hunting plantation. The entry roads run generally south from

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Highway 521 toward the Sampit River, leading to the four principal house sites shown on Robert Mills' Atlas. They are linked by short east-west roads, and by a longer route that skirts the edge of the ricefield area providing a circuit from the manager's house at the east, across Canaan Branch, and to the clubhouse at the edge of Ports Creek.

From the edge of Whites Creek almost as far west as Canaan Branch, a series of drainage ditches and banks formed the line between the plantation woodlands and the highlands cultivated for food crops. Such banks were usually fenced (to keep livestock in woodland pastures away from crops), and the plantation's interior paths developed alongside them. The fence-bank road connects the forks of Friendfield Road and Barnyard Road, Midway Avenue and Canaan Avenues. After 1943 it was extended northwest to intersect Fish Factory Road just opposite the east end of Long Avenue. The wetlands of Canaan Branch break the fence-bank road.

Two principal roads fork to form Friendfield's four access avenues: Friendfield Road, Barnyard Road, Midway Avenue and Canaan Avenue. Just south of the rail line, the entrance to Friendfield Plantation is marked by a pair of brick gates at Friendfield Road. This road runs straight to Mount Pleasant, with a fork to the east to Friendfield House. Below the fork, the straight avenue is called Barnyard Road, and the angled avenue is Friendfield Road. The two roads are joined at the south by the Mount Pleasant slave street, about one-half mile long.

Midway Avenue extends south-southwest from Highway 521. North of the rail line, this is a county road (Midway Road) outside the boundaries of Friendfield Plantation. South of the rail line it is an unpaved plantation road. Canaan Avenue forks off from Midway Avenue, extending southwest to the site of the Fish Factory. At their southern ends, Midway Avenue and Canaan Avenue are connected by a .4 mile section of the Creek Road. The Midway Community Cemetery is located at the north side of this road.

Along the west side of Canaan Branch is Gapway Road Extended, known on Friendfield as Picnic Shed Road. It leads almost due south from Highway 521, curving west to the site of a former tenant cabin at the approximate location of a "Withers" house shown on Mills' Atlas. Between Picnic Shed Road and Ports Creek are Bonny Neck and Waterfield plantations. Only two roads, Sixty-Foot Road and Schoolhouse Road, lead from Highway 521 into this large tract. They both end at Long Avenue. Long Avenue extends 1.7 mile due west from Picnic Shed Road to the clubhouse on Ports Creek. The clubhouse is also the east terminus of the Creek Road, the perimeter road that stretches from Midway Avenue to Long Avenue. Where the Creek Road crosses Canaan Branch is a wood bridge, rebuilt in recent years, that provides a view of the ricefield area to the south. At the north side of the bridge are remnants of early structures first indicated on the plat of 1811.

The only wholly new road on Friendfield Plantation is called Fish Factory Road. Laid in about 1918, the 1-3/4 mile road extends from the Fish Factory at the east side of Canaan Branch to the former Graves Station railroad depot at Highway 521.<sup>12</sup>

**6. Cultural Resources Associated with Quail Hunting and Timber Management**

Hunting courses are the distinct areas where each half-day's quail hunt takes place. They are planned to take advantage of the regular habits of the bobwhite, which are

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active in the early morning and again mid-afternoon. Each covey (a group of about 15 birds) remains in its own "range" - a geographic area averaging 10 to 20 acres that includes pineland, open ground (usually planted with bicolor lespedeza or other quail food), and thickets. A good range will be occupied every year, so hunting courses remain the same from season to season.

Friendfield Plantation is divided into four courses, each of about 500 acres. Two start at the dog kennel near the Mount Pleasant slave street: Whites Creek Hunt goes east and north, Midway Hunt goes west and north. The Picnic Shed Hunt extends along the west side of Canaan Branch, and the Ports Creek Hunt, beginning at the clubhouse, covers the western end of Friendfield. These four courses each sustain enough quail to be hunted once a week. Using the two courses on the Chestons' Andrews tract as well, Friendfield hunters can shoot six days a week.

Radcliffe Cheston was a keen student of quail habitat. In 1935 he wrote to Herbert L. Stoddard, the dean of southern quail management: "certainly from what I have learned at Friendfield, I know the [Andrews] property should be severely burned over." His interest remained high, and he allowed Walter Rosene to use Friendfield as one of fourteen major field study areas for his decade-long project.<sup>13</sup>

By the early 1940s, accepted quail management included three principal components: fire, harrowing or plowing, and cutting timber. With the tremendous demand for timber and pulpwood in the late 1930s, most plantation owners began selective harvesting that later made way for clear-cutting. Despite his willingness to burn Friendfield, Radcliffe Cheston was distinctly uneasy with the idea of timbering the property, and rejected the recommendations of Stoddard and Rosene as long as he could. In early 1946 he wrote to the Ingram-Dargan Lumber Company of Conway that although he had been selling timber at Andrews, he didn't "like the idea of cutting it at Friendfield."<sup>14</sup> Eventually he accepted that mature timber had to be cut, and developed the program that has sustained the property to the present time.

A 1939 timber survey showed longleaf pine forests on most of Friendfield except at the far east and at the edge of the ricefields along the Sampit and Canaan Creek where loblolly predominated. These are the areas of Bonny Neck and Canaan that were acquired by the Sampit Contracting Company, a logging and sawmilling enterprise, just after World War I.<sup>15</sup>

About 2,000 acres of Friendfield Plantation is in timber today, mostly longleaf of 60 to 80 years. Spreading across all of the original plantations on the property, the belt of pineland is an excellent example of woodlands managed for quail. The timber is managed on a sustained-yield basis, arresting succession so that quail production remains high. Sheltering productive weeds and grasslands, trees are widely and unevenly spaced, growing to the edges of bogs and wetlands. Many of them retain charred trunks from the periodic fires that control the underbrush. Throughout the pinefields are stumps left when mature trees are harvested, longleaf for poles and loblolly for the lumber market.

The pines along Highway 521, the northern boundary of Friendfield Plantation, present a different aspect. These trees are more closely spaced than those in the prime hunting areas, providing a visual buffer for the property.

The managed pinelands of the interior show only a few significant intrusions. At the western edge of the property, a 60' powerline right-of-way runs north to south,



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opening a view from Clubhouse Road to Highway 521. This was opened in 1974. An earlier right-of-way (shown on the 1943 Topographic Map) across the northwest corner of the property is also considered an intrusion although it was opened during the period of significance.

In areas that were sporadically cultivated by tenant farmers until recent years, there are a few stands of densely planted loblolly and slash pines in rows that presently resemble high-yield commercial forests. Two sections of slash pine and loblolly were planted along Highway 521 in 1987. In 1991 a total of 153 acres of loblolly was planted in small stands, each less than 10 acres, surrounded by "food plots" for quail. These plots utilize the former cropfields that were all taken out of production in 1990. The stands will be thinned at 10-year intervals. As trees are removed, these small plots will resemble more closely the appearance of the surrounding areas of Friendfield.

There are two modern buildings associated with recreation and hunting on the property. Just west of Canaan Branch, at the south side of Creek Road, is an open gable-roofed picnic shed with a brick fireplace at one end. At the west edge of Bonny Neck, alongside Ports Creek, is a clubhouse and pumphouse built in 1994 to replace an earlier hunters' clubhouse that was lost to Hurricane Hugo (1989). In setting, design and material, as well as purpose, the picnic shed and clubhouse are both compatible with the historic resources on Friendfield Plantation.

**7. Cultural Resources Associated with the Turpentine and Tar Industries**

During the late nineteenth century, the uncut longleaf pine forests on Friendfield Plantation supported turpentine makers and tar producers. From 1891 to 1894 the farmer who leased the plantation also had the right to "the use and profits of the pine timber now used and worked in the manufacture of crude turpentine." When Congdon, Hazard & Co. sold Waterfield and Canaan in 1894, after ten years of ownership, the deed referred to "pineland that has been used as a turpentine farm and can't be leased due to recent storm damage." The forest recovered from the damage, and as late as the 1920s, 364 acres of Bonny Neck was leased for turpentering.<sup>16</sup>

To gather turpentine, a fairly deep cavity called a "box" was cut near the base of a tree and a removable metal or earthenware bucket attached to it. Resin flowed into the cup from downward-pointing angled openings slashed progressively higher above the box. The enterprise leaves a visible scar, a series of triangular gashes called "cat faces" above a box cavity. Scattered across the eastern half of Friendfield Plantation are trees with cat faces, but no buckets are thought to remain.<sup>17</sup>

No oral history or above-ground evidence has revealed that temporary or portable turpentine stills were erected on Friendfield. Turpentine gathered on the property was most likely taken to Georgetown to be refined at a commercial distillery. Continuing research and observation may indicate otherwise. If any remnants of a turpentine still are found, the location will be mapped and protected.

Tar making left little imprint on the forest except for a mound left by the kiln. Producers did not fell trees, but gathered logs to be split, stored, and burned. Usually they were turpentine workers: while they were managing their boxes, they could collect dead and seasoned resinous longleaf pine wood ("fat lighter" or

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"lightwood"), the best source of tar. Collecting wood was the bulk of the work in tar production. In midwinter, when sap flow ceased, workers turned to kiln-making.

Most kilns are thought to have been used only once. To prepare the site, operators dug and shaped a concave pit to the depth of the clay subsoil. A sloping trench, sometimes lined with a pipe, extended from the center of the kiln to an excavated collection pit, so that the flow of tar through the trench would drip into a bucket or barrel placed in the pit. The lightwood pieces were stacked in the kiln, with the center being filled with waste wood - stumps and knots. The lightwood pile, sometimes blanketed with pine straw, might be 10' or 15' high. To make the wood burn slowly and without ash, the pile was covered with earth except at the center. Here the fire was started, at the top of the mound. Once it had ignited, the top was covered with earth.

Workers manipulated the fire by opening small airholes with long poles or raking dirt back over the mound. Tar began to flow after the first or second day. Operators maintained the fire night and day as long as tar flowed, sometimes a week or more. Production of one barrel per cord of wood was a good yield. The tar could be shipped as it was, or boiled and reduced into pitch. This process was essentially unchanged for over two centuries. During the late nineteenth century, tar makers developed oval or rectangular kilns, but the round form continued in widespread use.

A spot that was favorable for kiln operation would be used again, so mounds are expected to be found in clusters. Kilns themselves were sometimes used more than once. Extant kiln mounds are most commonly circular, ranging from 5' to 70' across, with a perimeter trench from which the earth had been dug to cover the kiln. The distinctive central depression results from differential settling, but may also indicate that charcoal was excavated from the kiln center. Collection pits, from one to two meters across, are just outside the perimeter trench and might be circular or rectangular. In the field, it can be difficult to tell a collection pit from the stump holes left by burned or rotted trees.<sup>18</sup>

The single tar mound that has been documented on Friendfield Plantation is on Bonny Neck, about one-quarter mile south of Long Avenue. It is at least 50 feet across, with a centered pit about two feet wide. Sloping upward from a shallow perimeter trench, the mound terrain is irregular but generally level, and elevated no more than three feet from its surroundings. The mound has not been disturbed by firelines or other plowing.

The location of the Bonny Neck mound is very well known to the owners and staff of Friendfield Plantation. There are said to be others that have not been precisely located. The manager and employees are alert to the probability of finding more mounds if they look for them. As they are found, such sites will be marked on plantation management maps so that plowing and other plantation maintenance will not disturb them. Along with the information they contain, the kiln mounds are to be protected for the future.

#### 8. Cultural Resources Associated with Fish Processing

The early twentieth century fish scrap, oil, and fertilizer plant at the east side of Canaan Branch is the only menhaden processing facility known to have been built in South Carolina before World War II. The site was developed twice, for two

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separate enterprises, but neither was successful. Cultural resources that remain, except the road to the site, are all thought to date to 1929.

The Georgetown Fish Scrap and Oil Company owned 160 acres on Canaan Plantation at the edge of the Sampit River, concentrating its activities within a two-acre site. This had been the location of the earlier (1918-1920) Planters Fertilizer and Oil Company plant. As was typical in the industry, sometime after Planters closed, its processing equipment had been taken for reuse elsewhere. The new Georgetown plant was constructed of a dismantled plant of the Edward Fisher's Company in Southport, North Carolina. Smokestacks, boilers, engines, compressors, pressers and other machinery, lumber, "sheet-iron walls" and even storage sheds were hauled by barge and boat for reassembly by more than 50 workmen at the site.

Once local contractor J. E. McQuade had built the wharf, the factory was put together. The "kitchen" was completed first, with boilers installed and bricked into place. Next the scrap shed, raw box, carpenter's shop and sleeping quarters began to take shape. The completed factory consisted of a dock and elevator to haul fish from the hold of vessels; conveyor belt; brick furnaces, a "monster" smoke stack, boiler house, crude oil tank building; press, cook and green-tank house; dry scrap shed and wet scrap shed (each 45' X 100'); carpenter's shops and machine shop; bunk house, cafeteria, and sleeping quarters. The cooker could process 600 barrels hourly. After cooking, the fish were pressed for oil which went into large tanks to be boiled and skimmed while the scrap meat dried to the texture of shavings. Fish oil and fish scrap were then ready for shipment.

Six buildings remained in 1930, prior to Radcliffe Cheston's acquisition. By the time he took title to the property, most equipment had been removed. Material from some of the buildings was recycled into tenant residences and service buildings during the 1930s and 1940s. The office building was moved to Pawleys Island as a beach house for the McClary family, and finally was destroyed by Hurricane Hugo.<sup>19</sup>

Several interesting elements remain at the site of the fish factory complex. The poured concrete pillars of the dock lie in the tidal inlet leading to Sampit River. At the north side of the two-acre site is an excavated concrete pit, two iron rails remaining at its floor, that held heavy gauge scales for weighing loaded trucks. Nearby is the fish-oil vat, a concrete block structure of about 30' square. It is partially excavated, and the walls above-ground are about three feet high. It is now filled with water and a greasy film of fish oil, and its depth is uncertain. The crude oil tank is about 200' south of the oil vat. It is a round tank, about 10' across, and open at the top. The ground around is built up, so that most of the tank is buried. Its depth has not been tested.

#### 9. Cultural Resources Associated with Rice Plantations

Today's Friendfield Plantation encompasses the tidal fields of five plantations: Friendfield, Mount Pleasant, Midway, Canaan, and Bonny Neck. The systems stretch from Whites Creek west along the Sampit River, along the mouth of Canaan Branch, and northwest along Ports Creek. The extent of inland planting on Waterfield and Canaan has not been determined.

On a low hill at the edge of the Sampit River was the Friendfield-Mount Pleasant plantation rice mill, a water-powered threshing mill convenient to the productive fields. From here, threshed or "rough" rice could be shipped by water to a nearby

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plantation pounding mill, or directly to Charleston or Georgetown. This mill is probably one of the three or four structures shown on the island on U. S. Coast Survey maps from the early 1870s. The lease of farming land on Friendfield (1891) refers to "out houses, barns, stables and mill with all appurtenances" without specifying details about the condition of the mill.<sup>20</sup>

The eight-acre island hill is overgrown, with the only remnants of the mill being scattered brick and two stones. Easy accessibility to navigable water ensured that scavengers would remove most brick from the site. Land access to the mill leads along a dike at the west side of Mount Pleasant. Because of the risk of erosion to the dike, the mill site is only rarely visited by land.

Ricefield acreage on the plantations expanded steadily during the years before the Civil War, and then dramatically reduced during the late nineteenth century. Estimates were provided at various times during the nineteenth century. In 1811 there were 22 fields, totalling 345 acres, on Mount Pleasant, Midway and Canaan. In 1841, there were 400 acres on Friendfield, Mount Pleasant, Midway and Canaan. Between 1881 and 1891 there were 180 acres of ricefields on Midway and Canaan, about 100 acres on Bonny Neck, and 300 acres on Friendfield-Mount Pleasant. Altogether, something over five hundred acres of today's Friendfield Plantation has been in ricefields. Today the fields along Ports Creek on Bonny Neck have been substantially overcome by fresh or brackish marsh and the tidal ricefields on Midway and Canaan have been inundated with salt water. Two hundred acres on Friendfield-Mount Pleasant, the Withers-Forster home place, are still controlled to flow with fresh water.<sup>21</sup>

The Forsters' ricefields was maintained longer than rice land on the plantations they sold. As late as 1891, a three-year farm lease required the tenant of Friendfield-Mount Pleasant to maintain ricefields, trunks, roads and fences in good repair throughout the lease term. These fields were still in usable condition when Radcliffe Cheston acquired Friendfield, and he continued to have them cultivated. All the work was done by hand. The rice was brought from the field by truck to the Mount Pleasant barnyard, where it was flailed, winnowed, and mortared. The unpolished plantation rice was eaten at the McClary and Cheston tables, and supplied to farm workers. Some was even sold in Georgetown. Rice planting at Friendfield ended some time between 1939 and 1942, when the buildup for World War II reduced the supply of cheap labor in Georgetown County.<sup>22</sup>

The ricefields on Mount Pleasant and Friendfield are stabilized by an outer dike that extends south along the Midway-Mount Pleasant boundary and toward the rice mill hill, an inner dike, and perimeter dikes along the Sampit River between the rice mill site and Whites Creek. Large ditches that divide the wetland into fields of ten to twenty acres can still be seen, but most of the cross-ditches have been obliterated. The fields can be approached from the lawn of Friendfield House, the bluff below Mount Pleasant ("Silver Hill") House, and the dike road to the mill. The layout of the fields on Midway and Canaan can still be discerned despite the incursion of salt water.

**10. Cemeteries on Friendfield Plantation**

There are three known cemeteries on today's Friendfield Plantation. Two are on Midway, and one is on Friendfield proper. The Withers-Shackelford Cemetery is immediately west of the site of the Midway House (which is marked by brick bats and

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other artifacts). The only three graves marked here date to 1827: Robert Francis Withers (1771-1827), Mrs. Clara Elizabeth Shackelford (1802-1827), wife of Francis R. Shackelford, and Clara Elizabeth Shackelford (1825-1828), daughter of Francis and Clara. All have low brick box tombs, with slabs carved by T. Walker, a Charleston stone cutter. The plot is overgrown, but the footings of a brick perimeter wall can be seen around parts of the cemetery.

The Midway Community Cemetery is a larger site, about five acres of generally level open ground, located at the west side of Midway Avenue. The site spreads south from the grassy drive that leads from Midway Avenue. Grave locations seem to be very irregular, and there are many depressions without markers, but all the mounds and depressions are oriented east-west. The markers that are in place face east. The cemetery is typical of slave burial grounds that evolved into modern community cemeteries: it is overgrown, without ornamental plantings, walls or copings to separate family plots. This cemetery is still used, with the most recent burial having taken place about 1988.

The Friendfield Plantation Cemetery is at the edge of Whites Creek, just north of the gate to the Friendfield House complex. It is a sloping site, apparently less than one acre, very overgrown and shaded with some hardwoods. Only a few markers remain in place facing east, and they are generally illegible. The cemetery seems not to have been used for many years. It is a good example of a neglected slave cemetery, one about which very little is known.

The cemeteries on Friendfield are marked on plantation maps. Plowing, burning and mowing operations are directed so that they avoid the sites.

**Notes**

- 1 Mellor and Meigs, "Residence for Radcliffe Cheston, Esq." (Philadelphia: Mellor and Meigs, February 1931, rev. March 1931); Mellor and Meigs, "Porch Addition to Residence of Radcliffe Cheston, Esq., Georgetown County, S.C." (Philadelphia: Mellor and Meigs, May 1936).
- 2 Interview, Frances Cheston Train, Friendfield Plantation, 10 January 1995; Who Was Who in America, Vol. 3, 1951-1960 (Chicago: M. N. Marquis Co., 1963), p. 590-591; Henry F. Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970), p. 417.
- 3 Alberta Morel Lachicotte, Georgetown Rice Plantations (Columbia: The State Printing Company, 1955), p. 138; J. L. Bull, Jr., "Map of the Gardens, Friendfield Plantation" April 1936; Innocenti and Webel, "Details for Walls, Etc., for Plantation of Radcliffe Cheston, Georgetown S. C." (Roslyn, NY: Innocenti and Webel, 1936).
- 4 Interview, Peter Small, Friendfield Plantation, 25 January 1995.
- 5 Interview, Frances Cheston Train, Friendfield Plantation, 25 January 1995.
- 6 Interview, Virginia McClary Delatte, Georgetown, 25 August 1995; "An Important Deal in Real Estate" (Georgetown Times, 11 December 1925).

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- 7 "A Plan of a Plantation and Part of 3 Tracts of Land belonging to Robert F. Withers... from an actual survey taken in April 1811 by William N. Richbourg, Surveyor"; Debi Hacker and Michael Trinkley, Cartographic Survey of Historic Sites in Georgetown County, South Carolina (Columbia: Chicora Foundation, Inc., August 1993); U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils, South Carolina Soil Survey, Georgetown Sheet (1911); interview, Virgil Dugan, Manager, Friendfield Plantation.
- 8 Edward A. Chappell, Letter to Virgil Dugan, 21 April 1987.
- 9 "Will of Francis Withers" (in Works Progress Administration, Charleston County Wills, Book 44, p. 268); letter Radcliffe Cheston to Paul D. Mills, 22 May 1940 (Friendfield Plantation Office Files); "Four Houses and Old Church Burned" (Times, 17 May 1940); interviews, Peter Small and Virgil Dugan.
- 10 Interview, Virgil Dugan.
- 11 Patrick C. McClary, III, Living Proof (Pawleys Island: by the author, 1978).
- 12 U. S. Civilian Conservation Corps, "Sheet No. 9"; Times, 14 June 1929.
- 13 Radcliffe Cheston, Jr., Letter to Herbert L. Stoddard, 4 January 1935; Walter Rosene, The Bobwhite Quail: Its Life and Management (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1969), passim.
- 14 Radcliffe Cheston, Jr., Letter to E. E. Dargan, 9 January 1946.
- 15 U. S. Civilian Conservation Corps, "Sheet No. 9"; George L. Taylor, Title Abstracts, Friendfield Plantation (Georgetown: George L. Taylor, Attorney at Law, 1930-1955); interviews, Virgil Dugan.
- 16 Taylor, Title Abstracts.
- 17 Interview, Rhonda Kimbrough, USDA Forest Service Archaeologist, Tallahassee, FL, 1 August 1995; interview, Michael A. Harmon, USDA Forest Service Archaeologist, Troy, NC, 3 August 1995; Georgetown County Library System, A View of Our Past: The Morgan Photographic Collection depicting Georgetown South Carolina, c. 1890-1915 (Georgetown: Georgetown County Library, 1993), p. 74.
- 18 Preservation Consultants, Inc., site investigations, Millbrook Plantation, Charleston County, 1991; interview, Robert Morgan, USDA Forest Service Archaeologist, McClellanville SC, 1 August 1995; interview, Henry Mintz, Hallsborough NC, 2 August 1995; Michael A. Harmon and Rodney J. Snedeker, "The Archaeological Record of Tar and Pitch Production in Coastal Carolina" Chapter 10 in Linda F. Stine, et al, eds., Historic Landscapes in South Carolina: Historical Archaeological Perspectives of the Land and its People (Columbia: Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists, 1993).
- 19 Taylor, Title Abstracts.
- 20 Ibid; Hacker and Trinkley.
- 21 Taylor, Title Abstracts; "Will of Francis Withers".
- 22 Interviews, Peter Small, Frances Cheston Train, Virginia McClary Delatte.

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**Statement of Significance**

Friendfield Plantation is a 3,305-acre property that includes buildings, structures, roadways, woodlands, ricefield systems and sites associated with the continuing use of the land from ca. 1750 until 1946. These features illustrate its conversion from a rice plantation to a winter hunting resort into the World War II era, when Friendfield's owners achieved a permanent balance between recreational use and sustained-yield forestry.

Even when Friendfield was being intensively cultivated for rice, the proximity of the City of Georgetown stimulated the development of other revenue-producing activities. From about 1850 into the 1920s, naval stores producers exploited the longleaf pine on the property. During the early twentieth century, fish processors used a point of land over the Sampit River for a fertilizer and scrap factory headquartered in Georgetown. Remnants of these enterprises serve as a reminder that, by road, downtown Georgetown is less than five miles from Friendfield Plantation House.

Friendfield Plantation is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for its significance in Agriculture, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage: Black, Industry, Maritime History, Social History, and Transportation during the period ca. 1750 - 1946.

Friendfield Plantation is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, for its significance in Architecture, Engineering, and Landscape Architecture. The contributing architectural resources retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. The buildings and landscaping at Friendfield House, Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) House, and two staff residences are typical hunting plantation features. The eighteenth century Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) House and nineteenth century slave street are fine examples of antebellum residences on a Georgetown County rice plantation. Engineered ricefield systems were assets to the use of the property for duck hunting. Upland landscape patterns have served the needs of turpentine and tar makers, tenant farmers, and quail hunters.

**Historical Background**

Introduction

The plantations that make up the twentieth century Friendfield Plantation were originally developed for rice production in the eighteenth century. Their antebellum and post-Civil War history is closely associated with others in the region from Winyah Bay to the Horry County line, several of which were included in the "Georgetown County Rice Culture, ca. 1750 - ca. 1910" Multiple Property nomination and listed in the National Register in 1988.<sup>1</sup>

The post-Civil War history of Friendfield Plantation is also associated with a trend that began in the late nineteenth century and lasted until World War II. Seasonal occupancy as hunting preserves became the highest and best use of former rice and cotton plantations from Georgetown to Allendale. Several of these winter retreats in South Carolina have been individually listed in the National Register, including Black River (Waddell Ranch or Pomenah) Plantation and Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown County, Richmond Plantation in Berkeley County, and Boone Hall Plantation in

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Charleston County.<sup>2</sup> Quail hunting plantations in Florida (Tall Timbers) and Georgia (Pebble Hill) have also been listed.<sup>3</sup>

South Carolina Hunting Plantations

Lowcountry South Carolina offered two main attractions to winter hunters: ducks and quail. Well-known duck hunting clubs such as the Annandale Gun Club and the Santee Club purchased or leased vast tracts of former ricefields in Georgetown and Charleston counties. Quail hunting was a sport for drier ground. Like duck hunting clubs, the earliest quail clubs were organized before the turn of the century. Among the best-known are Okeetee Club (Jasper County), begun in 1894; Palachucola (Hampton County), 1897; and Oakland (Berkeley County), 1903.<sup>4</sup>

Individual purchasers followed the clubs. Near Okeetee, Robert D. Winthrop bought 10,000 acres as a quail preserve, naming it Groton. In Georgetown County, Bernard Baruch acquired Hobcaw Barony between 1905 and 1907. He was principally interested in duck hunting, but quail shooting was another favorite sport during the first years he owned Hobcaw. However, Baruch's management of Hobcaw Barony, as he encouraged the natural succession from fields to pine to hardwood, destroyed quail habitat. The woods grew thicker, "it became more difficult to find the birds... and the undergrowth was too dense for shooting." Instead of managing for quail on Hobcaw, Baruch leased a hunting tract in Williamsburg County.<sup>5</sup>

Williamsburg County's winter colony of quail hunters developed in the early 1930s. By 1937 fifty percent of its half-million acres was said to be in quail preserves. Williamsburg County quail hunters also purchased duck hunting properties in Georgetown County during the 1930s: Robert Goelet (Wedgfield), Eugene DuPont (Kinloch), and Richard Reeves (Millwood).<sup>6</sup>

In late 1929, Paul D. Mills purchased Windsor Plantation in Georgetown County as a winter residence and hunting retreat. He and his kinsmen A.J. Drexel Paul and Radcliffe Cheston, Jr., also formed a partnership, the Andrews Shooting Syndicate, and purchased land in Williamsburg County near Andrews. Maintenance of their Andrews tract for quail continues today.<sup>7</sup>

By the end of the 1929-30 quail season, Cheston had determined to buy a duck hunting plantation in Georgetown County as a winter home. In the spring of 1930 he purchased Friendfield, a rice plantation with several fields still in production. The waters around Friendfield offered fine duck shooting, which Cheston enjoyed for years. As quail habitat studies became available, he and his contemporaries found that the upland sections of former rice plantations could be managed to add quail hunting to their winter sports.<sup>8</sup>

Hunting patterns on a duck hunting plantation are determined by the habits of the migratory waterfowl that feed in former ricefields. The hunter is in his blind at dawn, and finishes the day by mid-morning. A quail plantation is organized around the habits of a fairly sedentary ground bird, the bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*). Good shooting takes place late morning and mid-afternoon. Groups of quail (coveys) remain in predictable areas and can be flushed to be shot on the wing, making the bobwhite one of the most popular game birds in America. For the



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season 1991-92, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources estimated that statewide more than 32,000 hunters had taken more than 500,000 wild quail.<sup>9</sup>

Quail hunting has been an important recreational activity since the nineteenth century. As early as 1905, the United States Department of Agriculture published information about the quail's food habits. During the 1920s, the number of quail was noticeably declining, and South Carolina landowners joined with those from Florida and Georgia to sponsor a study of quail in the southeast. Ornithologist Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., managed the "Cooperative Quail Investigation," publishing his findings in 1931. Afterward, as director of the Cooperative Quail Study Association, he worked with owners of over 100 southeastern hunting plantations to establish agricultural, forestry and prescribed burning practices. Successful results ensured that his management practices would be implemented, as they were on Friendfield Plantation. Stoddard's The Bobwhite Quail: Its Habits, Preservation and Increase (1931) and Walter Rosene's The Bobwhite Quail: Its Life and Management (1969) form the canon of southern quail plantation managers.<sup>10</sup>

Quail management in South Carolina had evolved from the tenant farms scattered across plantations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As its principles were defined during the 1930s, farmers planted pea and grain crops specifically to support quail, posted their land against trespassing hunters, and leased exclusive shooting rights to northern sportsmen. Proceeds from these leased lands were an important part of the quail equation. Native southern landowners as well as wealthy sportsmen had an interest in combining quail with economically efficient land management. During the early 1940s, timber management replaced farming as the productive activity most compatible with quail habitat.

Especially in the decades before 1950, most hunting plantation managers were men who had grown up nearby. Familiar with the local climate and agriculture, hunting practices, equipment suppliers and laborers, they were invaluable partners to new plantation owners, and many made a career of managing a single property. Among the most successful managers were men whose families had formerly owned the property. When Radcliffe Cheston purchased Friendfield in 1931, he employed Patrick C. McClary, Jr., whose father had owned the plantation from 1919 to 1926, as resident manager. McClary held the position for nearly four decades.

Since about 1950, as the practice of combining game management with timber production has become the norm, plantation managers are more likely to be college graduates with training in forestry, agriculture and wildlife. Like their predecessors, the most successful of these professional managers remain on one property for decades. Virgil Dugan, manager of Friendfield Plantation, Inc., has managed the plantation since 1971.

In 1963, geographer Merle Prunty, Jr., found sustained-yield forestry and quail propagation to be "distinctly compatible." As case studies for woodland plantations, he used second and third-generation quail preserves supporting themselves through timber production. By 1969, when Walter Rosene's work was published, timber sales by quail plantation owners were nearly universal. Rosene endorsed the practice of thinning mature trees to keep unevenly-aged stands, suggesting also that managers plant new trees in patches or strips, thinning them

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after several years of growth. Scattering new trees too widely was considered inefficient management for both timber and quail.<sup>11</sup>

The appearance of a quail plantation - shrubby overgrowth, plowed and planted patches, unevenly aged stands of pine, harrowed firelines and periodic burns - is achieved through intensive management that provides year-round food and safety for quail. A true "reversal to nature" would allow grasses and pines to smother feed plants, deer to overrun the habitat, and rats or wild hogs to menace nests. Therefore the most obvious feature of a property managed for quail is the continual interruption of natural succession. Pine fields are an irregular composition of mature longleafs, forty-year old trees, and the brushes of seedlings. Bright green new growth shows the swath of a recent fire, while the record of earlier burns is presented in the charred trunks of living trees and in the controlled succession of growth on old fields. Thickets of scrubby oak are cut over from time to time, while strips of lespedeza and other bird food flourish in open areas and alongside the dirt roads. Newly plowed fire lanes meander across the land as ribbons of gray earth; later in the year they have grown up in weeds.

Friendfield Plantation

Radcliffe Cheston, Jr. (1889-1968) and Frances Drexel Fell Cheston (1889-1961) of Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania, were avid sportsmen. Their winter home was planned as a retreat where they, their five children, and close friends could ride and hunt almost constantly. Located on the north side of the Sampit River, Friendfield offered both duck fields and easy access to the Chestons' quail shooting property at Andrews. Game books for duck and quail show almost daily activity during the season.

The use of the property is reflected in the game books and guest books that have been kept at Friendfield House since 1931. From the beginning, winter occupancy has largely been restricted to the Chestons, their children and grandchildren. Guests were mostly close friends who visited year after year; there were no large houseparties.

On the other hand, as active members of the lowcountry's winter hunting colony, the Chestons often entertained their neighbors for lunch and dinner. They were part of a group of Pennsylvanians in Georgetown County who included Paul Mills, Robert L. Montgomery (Mansfield), and several others. Radcliffe Cheston was very involved with the Carolina Plantation Society (organized 1932) and in 1950 served as its president.<sup>12</sup>

After Radcliffe Cheston's death in 1965, use of Friendfield by his heirs, the grown children and their children, was unchanged. In 1994 the property was conveyed to the present owner, Friendfield Plantation, Inc., majority interest in which is held by family members. Several generations of the family are continuing to use Friendfield as they have since 1931.

Nomenclature and Early History

Friendfield Plantation, the nominated property, was acquired by Radcliffe Cheston, Jr., between 1930 and 1937, with one small parcel being added in 1955 to correct the north boundary line. It includes Friendfield, Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill), Midway,

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Canaan, Bonny Neck and part of Waterfield (Westfield) plantation, all of which were historically owned by Francis Withers. His home plantation, called Friendfield, is the easternmost tract of today's Friendfield Plantation. Francis Withers (1769-1847), son of "Captain" James Withers, was on the Friendfield tract at least by 1811, and tradition holds that he built the first Friendfield House in 1818.<sup>13</sup> Withers' Friendfield eventually absorbed Mount Pleasant ("Silver Hill"), immediately to the west.

Beginning in the eighteenth century, rice plantations on the north side of the Sampit River, west from Whites Creek for several miles inland, belonged to the Withers family. Because of their habit of using the same given names over and over, the tendency throughout the lowcountry of giving similar names to plantations, and the Civil War loss of Georgetown County's records, the history of antebellum land use on Friendfield Plantation has not been sorted precisely. Robert Mills' Atlas (surveyed in 1820) shows four Withers residences on today's Friendfield. Three are east of Canaan Branch, and depict Friendfield House, Mount Pleasant House, and a house on Midway. One is west of Canaan Branch, apparently on Bonny Neck (not documented).<sup>14</sup>

It is said that Friendfield was first named "Washington." According to a family member, Francis Withers renamed the property "Friendfield" when his brother John cancelled his purchase debt. The "Washington" story was told differently by Edmund Prioleau, a native of Georgetown. He said that Francis Withers, owner of Northampton (his wife's ancestral plantation), borrowed money from a friend to purchase Washington and renamed it Friendfield. Further, according to Prioleau, after Withers acquired Midway, the plantation (Mount Pleasant) between it and Friendfield was left in the possession of a brother. Francis Withers purchased Mount Pleasant, paying in silver, and called it Silver Hill thereafter. However, the Withers heirs do not seem to have used the name Silver Hill. Its first use in legal papers was during the early 1920s.<sup>15</sup>

Neither Washington nor Silver Hill is named in Withers' will, but either tradition could be accurate. Francis Withers' gravestone states that he was born on Friendfield, which indicates it belonged to a relative. (It could have been known as Washington in 1769.) If Francis purchased Friendfield, it was probably from a family member. He did purchase Mount Pleasant from a niece, who likely inherited it from his brother.

The first of the Withers family to plant on the Sampit River was James (d. 1756), a Charleston bricklayer who received his first grant for Georgetown land in 1736. In his will, he devised several plantations, including one named Mount Pleasant, to his son William. Another Withers, Richard Jr., in his will of 1786, deeded to his brother John "the plantation where I reside known as Mount Pleasant," entailing it to John's heirs. Mount Pleasant was a popular name, but either of these citations could be to Mount Pleasant-Silver Hill. The first concrete reference to the land is a copy of a plat made in 1811. It shows Robert F. Withers as the owner of a large tract west of Friendfield Avenue, taking in Mount Pleasant, Midway, Canaan and Waterfield. None of the tracts are named on the plat.<sup>16</sup>

During the early nineteenth century, Robert F. Withers was considerably wealthier than Francis Withers: he paid nearly twice as much in poor tax (\$41.71) as did

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Francis (\$22.80) in 1804. In 1810 he owned 237 slaves; Francis owned 128 slaves. Francis Withers eventually became one of the wealthiest planters on the Sampit.<sup>17</sup>

Francis Withers' holdings on the north side of the Sampit River stretched west from Whites Creek nearly to Spring Gully, and there were other plantations at the south side of the river. Like many Georgetown planters, he had a city residence in Charleston. His will was probated in Charleston instead of Georgetown, and so survived the Civil War. Withers was married twice. In 1792 he married Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of Edward Thomas of Northampton. (Mills' Atlas shows "Withers" at Northampton.) When Elizabeth died (1824), she was buried with her father in the Northampton plot. Francis called this the "family burying ground" and is buried there himself. A year after his first wife's death, Francis Withers married her cousin Sarah P. Warham (née Hunt), the widow of William Warham. She came to live at Friendfield, with her daughter Elizabeth, her sister Elizabeth Hunt, and her first mother-in-law Mary Gibbes Warham.<sup>18</sup>

In his will, written in 1841, Francis Withers deeded Friendfield and 200 slaves of the Friendfield gang, in families, to his wife Sarah for her lifetime, then to Sarah's daughter Elizabeth Hunt Warham, then to Elizabeth's children "as she may direct in her own will." In 1845 Elizabeth Warham married Dr. Alexius M. Forster, son of the Methodist cleric at Georgetown. The wedding took place at Friendfield, and the couple lived there with the Withers family. Forster gradually assumed management of the plantation.<sup>19</sup>

By 1841 Francis Withers had greatly enlarged his home plantation of Friendfield. His will describes "my Friendfield estate including the plantation which I purchased from the Trustee of my niece Eleonora Wilkinson, and my Midway and Canaan Plantations," altogether comprising about 400 acres of ricelands and an unspecified acreage of uplands. The uplands took in pinelands at "Norton" (north of today's Highway 521) and south of the Sampit River. The unnamed tract purchased from Eleonora (Mrs. Willis) Wilkinson was Mount Pleasant, between Friendfield and Midway. The will treats Northampton, Westfield and Bonny Neck as separate from the home estate, providing for them to be sold.

Two of Francis Withers' plantations, Springfield and Harmony, are not part of today's Friendfield. Northampton is also outside Friendfield, but it was devised by Withers along with Bonny Neck and Westfield (now Waterfield), which have been incorporated back into Friendfield. Withers directed that the Northampton gang (200+ slaves) were to continue cultivating rice on Bonny Neck, Westfield and Northampton until it was certain that Withers' own debts were paid; the property was then to be sold. His executors were to offer land and slaves to Dr. E. T. Heriot or another close friend. Heriot acquired the tract. Eventually the sections of Westfield south of Highway 521, and all of Bonny Neck, were combined back into Friendfield Plantation.

The Withers-Forster Family on Friendfield Plantation

In 1850 A. M. Forster, MD, age 30, was "head of the household" at Friendfield Plantation, which included his wife, three small sons, and his mother-in-law. Forster owned no real estate or slaves; Mrs. Withers owned the land and 237 slaves. Forster managed the property, which performed very well. On 1,980 acres (480 improved, 1,500 unimproved), the Estate of Francis Withers produced 330,000 pounds

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of rice, 1,200 bushels of Indian corn, 400 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of peas and beans, and 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes.<sup>20</sup>

In 1857 Forster purchased real estate in his own right, a 3,300-acre tract adjacent to Canaan, known as Waterfield or Waterman. This was Francis Withers' Westfield, which had been called Waterfield by subsequent owner Eleazer Waterman. The census for 1860 lists A. M. Forster as a planter with his own real estate, but without slaves of his own.<sup>21</sup>

Forster was operating a total of 7,800 acres in 1860, of which 800 acres was improved land. With the labor of the Withers Estate's 273 slaves, he produced 658,000 pounds of rice, a very large crop (compare to J. D. Magill, 450,000; Charles Alston, 590,000; Charles Alston Sr., 957,500). Livestock value, as in 1850, was above average for the district: there were 10 horses, 10 mules, 25 milk cows, 18 oxen, 65 swine, 80 sheep. They made a good quantity (200 pounds) of wool, but food crops had declined. Forster reported less corn and oats than in 1850, and no sweet potatoes at all. He even sold 41 of the Withers slaves. Like other planters at the top of Georgetown County's economic ladder, Forster put all his resources into rice. His was a respected strain: in 1859 R. F. W. Allston bought 500 bushels of Waterfield Seed Rice from Forster.<sup>22</sup>

With the onset of the Civil War, most rice planters joined the Confederate service. In July 1861 Dr. A. M. Forster joined the Tenth Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers as surgeon. It is not known where his family spent the war years. Sarah P. Withers died in 1864, but soon after the war, the rest of the family began putting Friendfield back together.

Like other Georgetown County planters, they returned to rice cultivation. This was the only feasible use for many plantations, and for many former slaves it was the only available employment. Under the directives of the Freedmen's Bureau, Forster and his new wage laborers made a contract during the first quarter of 1866. By 1870 the annual wages reached \$6,200., a fairly high figure by comparison with other planters. They made a good crop of rice: 240,000 pounds. Friendfield produced no corn, oats, peas or wool, but reported an above-average crop (100 bushels) of sweet potatoes.<sup>23</sup>

A. M. Forster also experimented with growing tea plants at Friendfield. Before the Civil War, tea had been grown with some success in South Carolina, and during the early 1870s there was new interest in its potential. Some sources place Forster's first efforts at 1874, a year before the United States Department of Agriculture began a large-scale importation program. Between 1875 and 1880, more than 250,000 tea plants were brought from China. Most of them were directed toward Georgia and South Carolina. The program eventually led to the establishment of Pinehurst Tea Farm near Summerville, but on Friendfield Plantation tea growing was abandoned after Forster's death in 1879. A generation later, the last plants around the house and garden were considered weeds and extirpated.<sup>24</sup>

After the death of A. M. Forster, his widow Elizabeth and her large family (teen-aged J. Arthur; five adult children, Mary, Frances, Julia, Alice, Dr. Alexius M. Jr.; his daughter Laura; a grown nephew and niece, F. F. and M. I. Gilmore; and M. R. Hogart, a girl of seven) operated Friendfield "with gratifying results." The plantation was productive in 1880: numerous calves, lambs, chickens; 2,500 bushels

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corn, 400 bushels oats, and 247,500 pounds of rice. The Forsters' rice crop compared fairly well with their near neighbors (Joseph Pyatt, 243,000 pounds; Thomas Doar, 460,000 pounds), but was far behind that of such planters as William M. Hazzard.

Friendfield's expenses ran high. In 1880 the family spent \$250. on buildings and repair; \$650. for fertilizer; and \$3,500. in wages for at least fifty laborers (all black, and probably former slaves). Even after selling Waterfield to Congdon, Hazard and Co. in 1881, Mrs. Forster was cash-poor. When her rice crop failed, she was unable to pay her merchandise bills at Congdon & Hazard. As security for supplies needed to plant the 1882 crop, she mortgaged Midway and Canaan.<sup>25</sup>

Congdon & Hazard's bills remained unpaid, and the mortgaged properties were forced into foreclosure sale in December 1884. Congdon & Hazard bought Canaan and Emma I. Parker bought Midway. In 1891 Mrs. Forster leased the agricultural lands and dwelling houses on Friendfield to a Georgetown County farmer for three years. Finally, in 1897, the family sold Friendfield Plantation to B. Walker Cannon.<sup>26</sup>

Friendfield Plantation in the Early Twentieth Century

All the plantations included in today's Friendfield Plantation belonged to Francis Withers at his death in 1847. The lands were separated and recombined during several periods after that time. Bonny Neck and Waterfield (Westfield) were sold soon after Withers' will was probated. Waterfield was reacquired by the family in 1857, but in 1881 it was the first land they sold. Canaan and Midway were sold in 1884, and the Friendfield-Mount Pleasant home place was sold in 1897.<sup>27</sup> The real estate transfers are related to significant aspects of Georgetown County's history.

Rice planting ended production on one Georgetown County property after another during the 1880s. In 1883, the first railroad into Georgetown opened its line along the north side of the Sampit River, cutting across the top of Friendfield. With the railroad came optimism that new industries - market vegetables, fish and oysters, lumber and shingles, turpentine and rosin - would flourish. Extensive pine forests were cut to feed the Atlantic Coast Lumber Company's Georgetown sawmill. The population of Georgetown increased 42% from 1890 to 1900, and the city was confidently expected to expand for miles to the west.<sup>28</sup>

Rice planters did not take to vegetable farming, or to tobacco, fishing, turpentine or lumbering. When rice was impossible, they rented or sold the land. Between about 1910 and 1925, W. D. Morgan and other Georgetown businessmen speculated in a great deal of property west of Georgetown, hoping to develop it as 100-acre farm lots. With population growth, rail and river connections, Georgetown County was considered prime territory for truck farming.<sup>29</sup>

B. Walker Cannon held Friendfield Plantation from 1897 until 1919, but did not live on the property. It has not been determined whether he operated the farmland and diminished ricefields himself, or leased agricultural rights to others. In 1919 he conveyed 1,195 acres of the property to Hugh L. Oliver, retaining 100 acres at Whites Creek (the location of the Forsters' summer house, north of the boundary of today's Friendfield). Cannon had already platted the northern 493 acres of Friendfield as farm lots. As soon as he purchased Friendfield, Oliver sold the

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land. Lots 1 through 10 ranged from twenty-four to eighty acres; several buyers of these lots held them for investment, renting to tenant farmers.<sup>30</sup>

Georgetown businessman Patrick C. McClary acquired the balance of Friendfield, the 728-acre southern section. He moved his family to Withers' Friendfield House and began farming and planting rice. After a few years, McClary returned to the city. In 1923 he extended to Milton G. Smith a lease over the ricefields and high areas, including the Friendfield House, oak grove, barns and servants house. The lease excluded the Mount Pleasant (Silver Hill) residence and ricefields, without stating whether the house was being used at the time.<sup>31</sup>

By late 1925 McClary had decided to sell Friendfield, and arranged for George N. McCown, S. T. Burch, and L. A. McCall, all of Florence County, to take possession in December 1926. The purchase included 6 rowboats and all the machinery, plows and farming equipment on the property; 4 mules, several cows and calves, and 27 hogs.<sup>32</sup>

At the time of the sale, half of Friendfield consisted of "rice fields suitable for the best kind of duck shooting"; the other half of the property was "well known as an excellent farming tract." Burch, McCall and McCown planned to operate the farm actively, doing business as Friendfield Farms, and also enjoy the hunting. Two houses would allow dual use: Mount Pleasant as an overseer's residence, Friendfield a clubhouse for the owners and their friends. By March 1926 they had started to paint Friendfield House and were "ready to install modern plumbing." Instead, during a houseparty, an early-morning fire began in a second story room, and within two hours the house was "burned to the ground."<sup>33</sup>

Burch, McCall and McCown owned Friendfield Plantation during the four years when Georgetown's Depression economy collapsed entirely. Using a small clubhouse on Ports Creek for themselves and their guests, they operated the farm with limited success. In April 1930, the partners sold Friendfield to Radcliffe Cheston, Jr. Along with the 728 acres, they conveyed farm implements, 1 cow and calf, 2 brood sows, and 2 farm mules. During the next three years Cheston acquired Lots 3 through 10 of the Oliver subdivision, reuniting all of Friendfield-Mount Pleasant Plantation south of the rail line.<sup>34</sup>

Midway Plantation, the next tract to the west of Friendfield-Mount Pleasant, was sold to Emma Iazard Parker in 1884. In 1886 she sold the northern section (about 150 acres) to Florence E. Rogerson, retaining the ricefields and adjacent high ground. In 1896 Edmund Prioleau acquired this southern portion of Midway, and the next year purchased the northern tract from Mrs. Rogerson, reuniting Midway. He held the plantation until 1919, when he sold the southern portion to John Smith. Radcliffe Cheston, Jr., acquired this tract (323 acres) in 1930.

Between 1886 and 1937 a number of small parcels on the northern section of Midway were sold to local African-Americans. One of the earliest was Munro Brown, who purchased a four-acre plot but lost the parcel with two buildings at a tax sale in 1906. Edmund Prioleau gave a small parcel (75' by 150' deep) to Allen Chapel AME church and between 1920 and 1937 he sold several lots along today's Graves Station Road. In early 1937 Prioleau sold the remaining 63 acres of Midway to Radcliffe Cheston, who had thus acquired all of Midway except the "outparcel" lots that are outside the boundaries of this nomination.<sup>35</sup>

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Canaan, Waterfield and Bonny Neck, the western half of today's Friendfield Plantation, were all purchased by B. Walker Cannon between 1895 and 1897. He conveyed all three plantations (3,573 acres) to the Georgetown Development Company in 1910. Much of the Georgetown Development Company's land (all of Canaan and Bonny Neck, and most of Waterfield) was eventually acquired by Radcliffe Cheston, Jr.<sup>36</sup>

Georgetown Development Company was an enterprise of W. D. Morgan, E. W. Kaminski, Raymond S. Farr and other Georgetown businessmen, who organized the firm in 1909. They spent \$20,000. to purchase Waterfield, Canaan and Bonny Neck, had the tract platted for subdivision as lots of 100 acres or more, and drew up a general drainage plan. All the lots were sold (some to the company's partners) between 1911 and 1915, to be held for investment or used for farming, turpentine, lumbering, and a fish-processing plant. As northern sportsmen learned, owners of rural land used for any of these purposes in Georgetown County were eager to sell it during the early 1930s.<sup>37</sup>

After Radcliffe Cheston acquired Friendfield Plantation he became interested in the adjacent tracts. Between 1930 and 1933 he bought land that had belonged to Sampit Contracting Company, Georgetown Fish Scrap and Oil Company, E. Marion Doar, and other local farm operators. His last acquisition (1955) was the "School lot," a one-acre parcel that had been deeded to the Graves School District in 1923.<sup>38</sup>

**Additional background information:**

Economic Enterprise in Rural Georgetown County

During the antebellum period, rice production was the most visible economic activity in Georgetown County. Rice planting shaped patterns of land use and ownership, social life among the elite and the slave community, and commercial relationships between town and country. After the Civil War, rice plantations were the foundation of a new pattern of land use and social life, the establishment of hunting retreats.

There have always been other economic activities in Georgetown County. The land, water and resources have encouraged food crop production and exploitation of forest and marine life. Along with rice, quail and timber, two kinds of gathering industries have left an imprint on Friendfield Plantation: tar making and fish processing.

Produced by burning lightwood from dead pines in an earthen kiln, tar is one of a class of forest products known as naval stores because of their use in ship building and maintenance. Naval stores consist of gum products (turpentine and rosin) and wood products (lumber, staves, shingles, tar and pitch). Used by paint, varnish and lacquer producers, turpentine and rosin (its refined form) are distilled from gum, the thick sap that oozes out of slashes cut ("boxed") in live pine trees. Tar, produced by burning deadfall and limbs in a slow fire, was a waterproofing product for ship riggings, a wheel lubricant, and also the basis for medicines for humans and livestock. Pitch, refined by boiling tar, was a sealant for caulking ship hulls. Turpentine and tar were complementary industries. Tar was made during the cold season when sap would not flow for turpentine.

Partly because of the importance of naval stores in the colonial period, and partly because of a general tendency to overlook late-nineteenth and early twentieth



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century sites, very little research has been done into the naval stores industries of post-Civil War South Carolina. Tar kiln mounds have been assumed to date to the eighteenth century unless there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary. The historical record is clear that tar was made into the early twentieth century in Georgetown County, and suggests that it was made on Friendfield Plantation during that late period.

South Carolina was a leading producer of naval stores before the American Revolution. During the late eighteenth century, loss of British bounties made naval stores less profitable, while cotton and rice promised great wealth. In interior sections of the lowcountry, planters cleared great forests for agriculture. In rice-growing regions, on the other hand, high ground had relatively little value. Enormous areas were left as woodlands, providing rough pasture, firewood, and also naval stores. Robert Mills listed Georgetown's important exports in the 1820s as rice, cotton, tar, pitch, and turpentine. He described the "curious" method of conveying tar by water, in barrels lashed to a hollowed-out pine tree with the pilot atop the raft steering with a rude helm.<sup>39</sup>

During the 1840s, as lumbermen depleted northern forests, turpentine makers moved southward, from North Carolina into the forests of eastern South Carolina. By 1850, 15 turpentine distillers and 8 turpentine "collectors" had established themselves in Horry District. Six of them were one-man operations, one had five hands, and one had ten.<sup>40</sup> It may be that these distillers and collectors used slave labor along with paid employees, and it is probable that they produced tar as well as turpentine.

Naval stores activity reached Georgetown County in the 1850s. By the time of the Civil War, "between the Pee Dee and Cape Fear river... on nearly every stream there was a factory for the making of turpentine, rosin, and tar." In 1860 there were numerous turpentine distillers, "farmers," and laborers in the City of Georgetown. There were also ten turpentine factories (nine distillers of raw turpentine and one collector) in the city and Prince George Winyah Parish. Their economic profile was fairly low: value produced, with 7 to 43 laborers employed, was only a few thousand dollars each. Use of slave labor was not included with census industrial statistics. However, in Georgetown Subdivision #2 (the unit that includes Friendfield), Elisha Perkins reported his 82 slaves as turpentine "getters," and the firm of Perkins, Carraway and Perkins had about 180 slaves who were "turpentine collectors." Nearly all these people were men between the ages of 17 and 40.<sup>41</sup>

Independent turpentine collectors could have been working trees on the Withers-Forster plantations, making tar as a winter sideline. The only records of their activity would be leases or agreements as to their use of the woodlands, none of which have been found.

After the Civil War, black and white laborers worked in the turpentine industry in Georgetown County. In 1870 both Congdon & Hazard and Arthur Morgan operated large turpentine stills in the city. There were also three smaller distilleries in the city or nearby. By 1880, there were sawmills, turpentine stills and shingle manufacturers scattered throughout the county. The manuscript census for turpentine producers is obscure, but indicates tar production. Two stills at Plantersville were first listed as "naval stores;" this was crossed out and replaced by "tar and turpentine." For the three other stills on the Pee Dee River, the enumerator wrote

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"turpentine" and then added "tar and" to each. It is clear that forest industries were active throughout Georgetown County, and that tar was being produced.<sup>42</sup>

Some observers blamed naval stores operators for "drawing off labor" from the ricefields of Georgetown County in the 1880s; others have said that slave streets were occupied into the twentieth century because they were convenient to turpentine fields. In 1883, a very bad year for rice, Georgetown's former great crop comprised only 11% of the value of goods leaving the harbor. By contrast, 23% was in naval stores (lumber, turpentine spirits, resin, tar). The greatest value was in turpentine (\$440,000., or 42% of the entire naval stores exported) and the smallest was in tar (\$1,700., only one percent). Even with this low dollar figure, South Carolina was a national leader in tar and pitch production.<sup>43</sup>

As forests were depleted by lumber interests, the naval stores industries migrated to Florida. Although the advent of steel ships reduced national demand for naval stores, the primacy of coastal shipping at Georgetown sustained a market into the twentieth century. Atlantic Coast Lumber Company was producing turpentine at least until 1915, and there was probably tar production in the area as well.<sup>44</sup>

Archaeologists have outlined several research questions that can only be resolved through study of tar kiln mounds. The data currently available are not sufficient to allow assessment of mounds on Friendfield Plantation in terms of National Register eligibility criteria, but as above-ground elements they are visual reminders of an overlooked twentieth century industry.<sup>45</sup>

Early fishing and fish processing industries, like forest industries, left few structures. They are typically docks, piers and storage facilities. Processing structures are very rare, and are mostly shellfish canning facilities. On Friendfield Plantation are the remaining elements of the only menhaden processing plant known to have been built in South Carolina before World War II.

Menhaden is one of the oldest commercial fisheries in America. The oily fish were first caught with seines from shore, and used whole as fertilizer. Before 1820, they were being pressed for a substitute for whale oil; the dry pressed scraps were used for fertilizer. After the Civil War processing plants spread from New England to North Carolina. Scrap became more important than oil because of its value as a fertilizer additive. For example, during the 1870s the Charleston (S.C.) Pacific Guano fertilizer factory used large quantities of menhaden scrap imported from New England. Menhaden were largely fished out in New England by the turn of the century. The mid-Atlantic states, especially the Southport-Morehead City area of North Carolina, became the seat of the fish-scrap industry. In 1912 there were 48 menhaden factories on the Atlantic Coast, from Cape Fear to Fernandina Beach, but none were located in South Carolina.

After World War I modern chemicals replaced fish scrap, guano and phosphate in fertilizer manufacturing. Menhaden remained important, however, because of the introduction of milled fish scrap (fish meal) as livestock feed. This use has increased since World War II, and today fish meal is in high demand for feeding poultry, swine and pets.<sup>46</sup>

The first documented attempt to establish a menhaden plant in South Carolina was on Friendfield Plantation. In 1918 the Planters Fertilizer and Oil Company, a

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Georgetown partnership, was chartered and acquired a parcel of high ground on Canaan Plantation from the Georgetown Development Company. Like turpentine and sawmilling companies, the partners considered Friendfield's proximity to river, railroad, highway and city as an asset to their industry. The cause of the demise of the company is not certain. In 1920 its directors petitioned for a court-appointed receiver. In 1923 the machinery was sold for removal from the site, and Georgetown County obtained the land.

The fish factory site was vacant until 1929, when Georgetown County arranged with Charles E. Gause of Southport, North Carolina, to convey the land to the newly-formed Georgetown Fish Scrap and Oil Company (Wallace M. Quinn of Crisfield, Maryland, Gause himself, and W. M. Webb). They moved men, boats, and equipment south, and began fishing and processing. By June 1929 there were 60 men at the plant, and forty 20-man boats.

The Great Depression had affected Georgetown profoundly, and the local business community supported the fish factory with enthusiasm. Along with jobs and freight shipments, the availability of fresh fish meal was expected to assist area farmers in beginning factory-style hog parlors and chicken houses. The Georgetown Grocery Company built a mill to grind fish meal for hog chow. Most scrap and oil were hauled by truck to Graves Station Depot for loading onto freight cars. By mid-June 7,000 barrels had been processed.

The largest menhaden that were best for oil were scarce off Georgetown, where the water provided mostly smaller fish useful for scrap. Whether because of the inferior fish, or simply Depression-era economics, after its first season the Georgetown Fish Scrap and Oil Company declined. Georgetown County taxes for 1930 went unpaid; the property was seized in 1931; and in 1934 Radcliffe Cheston purchased it.

Between August 1929 and August 1931, there were articles in the Georgetown Times regarding the potential of commercial shad fishing, of a shrimping industry, even of farming carp for live shipment by rail. However, menhaden and the failure of the Georgetown fish factory were not discussed. By the time national corporations began to buy quantities of fish scrap for chicken and hog feed, the Georgetown Fish Scrap and Oil Company plant had closed. Charles Gause and Wallace Quinn remained important businessmen in their home ports, and Quinn did return to South Carolina in 1946. He owned a menhaden plant on Slann Island (between Yonges Island and Edisto Island) until 1959.<sup>47</sup>

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- 45 Harmon and Snedeker.
- 46 Joseph W. Smith, "The Atlantic and Gulf Menhaden Purse Seine Fisheries: Origins, Harvesting Technologies, Biostatistical Monitoring, Recent Trends in Fisheries Statistics, and Forecasting" (p. 28-41 in Marine Fisheries Review, Vol. 53, no. 4, 1991); John Frye, The Men All Singing: The Story of Menhaden Fishing (Virginia Beach: The Donning Co., 1978), p. 27-30, 143; interview, Joseph W. Smith, Fisheries Biologist, US Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Beaufort, N. C., 31 October 1994; "Scanning Waters for Fat Backs" (N&C, 31 December 1911).
- 47 Frye, p. 89; "Notice of Incorporation... Georgetown Fish Scrap and Oil Company" and "Large Fish Factory for City Announced... to Use Many Boats" (Georgetown Times, 22 February 1929); "Fish Factory Plant is Being Assembled" (15 March 1929); "Fish Factory Ready by the First of June" (5 April 1929); "Two Million Fish..." (14 June 1929); "Three Million Fish..." (5 July); "Fishermen Return" (2 August 1929); "Million Menhaden" (16 August 1929).

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**Additional information-archaeology**

Friendfield Plantation is not presently being nominated for the National Register under Criterion D. Investigations necessary to frame archaeological research questions have not been carried out. Although the cartographic survey (1993) published by the Chicora Foundation, Inc., identified a number of potential archaeological sites within the boundaries of the nominated area, the data currently available are not sufficient to allow an assessment of potential archaeological sites in terms of National Register eligibility criteria.<sup>1</sup>

An archaeological management plan for Friendfield Plantation is being developed by the owner and manager of the property. Archaeological sites on Friendfield will be protected while a basis is laid to support future investigations. The first goal is to protect sites as they are identified or suspected; the second is to organize any information provided by Friendfield's owners, staff and visitors.

Locations of known sites, from residences to tar kilns, will be noted on plantation management maps so that staff can avoid damaging archaeological sites as they plow crop patches and firelines. By correlating the modern maps with early plats and maps, suspected sites can be approximately located, at least enough to avoid damage until such time as a reconnaissance survey can check locations in the field and assess the potential of each site.

The owners of Friendfield Plantation discourage artifact collection, and prohibit digging for antiquities. However, because of the way in which roads, trails and forests on the property are managed, it is very common to find artifacts and archaeological fragments on the surface of the ground. Inevitably they will be picked up. Rather than allowing them to be removed from the property, the owners will require that any artifacts collected on Friendfield be kept in the plantation office. They will be stored carefully and labeled according to the area on which they were found. This locational information will be a supplement to historic maps in predicting likely archaeological resources.

**Notes**

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<sup>1</sup> Debi Hacker and Michael Trinkley, Cartographic Survey of Historic Sites in Georgetown County, South Carolina (Columbia: Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1993).

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by a dark line on the accompanying USGS Topographic Maps, entitled Georgetown North, Georgetown South, and Olin, drawn to a scale of 1:24,000.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property include all of Radcliffe Cheston's "Friendfield Plantation" as delineated on a plat filed with the Georgetown County Clerk of Court's Office. The boundary is drawn to exclude two parcels at the north edge of the property that were not acquired by Cheston and remain outside the ownership boundaries of the property.

The nominated property was purchased by Radcliffe Cheston, Jr., between 1930-1937, and owned by him until his death in 1965. A single one-acre parcel at the north edge of the property was acquired by Cheston in 1955. This "school lot" was historically part of the land that makes up Friendfield Plantation, and its purchase after the period of significance is considered a property line correction. Except that modification, the boundaries of Friendfield Plantation have been unchanged since 1937.

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The following information is the same for each photograph except #3 and #8:

Name of Property: Friendfield Plantation  
Location: Georgetown County, South Carolina  
Name of Photographer: Sarah Fick  
Preservation Consultants, Inc.  
Date of Photographs: July to October 1995  
Location of Original Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Photographs #3 and #8 are dated ca. 1920, photographer unknown. Original negatives are located at the Georgetown County Public Library.

1. Friendfield House, south facade, camera facing northwest.
2. Friendfield House, entry detail, camera facing north.
3. Friendfield House, ca. 1920 view, camera facing northwest.
4. Friendfield House, rear wing, camera facing south.
5. Friendfield House, rear wing, camera facing east.
6. Friendfield House, living room mantel, camera facing north.
7. Friendfield House, living room, wainscot detail.
8. Friendfield House, ca. 1920 view of living room.
9. Friendfield House, den, fireplace wall, camera facing south.
10. Friendfield House, water garden, camera facing northeast.
11. Friendfield House, view into formal garden, camera facing east.
12. Friendfield House, oaks at south lawn, camera facing south.
13. Friendfield House, view from south edge of lawn, camera facing south.
14. Friendfield House, gateposts at entry drive, camera facing south.
15. Friendfield House, western staff cottage facade, camera facing north.
16. Friendfield House, eastern staff cottage interior, camera facing northeast.
17. Friendfield House, western staff cottage interior, camera facing east.
18. Friendfield House, house stable north gable end, camera facing south.
19. Friendfield Plantation ricefields, camera facing southwest.
20. Mount Pleasant House, south facade, camera facing northwest.
21. Mount Pleasant House, rear elevation, camera facing southeast.
22. Mount Pleasant House, east elevation, camera facing west.
23. Mount Pleasant House, foundation at facade center bay, camera facing south.
24. Mount Pleasant House, first level east parlor, wainscot.
25. Mount Pleasant House, first level east parlor, fireplace.
26. Mount Pleasant House, first level west parlor, replaced wainscot material.
27. Mount Pleasant House, typical paneled door.
28. Mount Pleasant House, stairhall at second level, camera facing north.
29. Mount Pleasant House, attic level, west room, camera facing northwest.
30. Friendfield Plantation Barnyard, stable, south gable end, camera facing northwest.
31. Friendfield Plantation Barnyard stable, west shedrow, camera facing north.
32. Friendfield Plantation Barnyard, corn barn, camera facing southwest.
33. Friendfield Plantation Barnyard, tractor shed and stable, camera facing southwest.
34. Friendfield Plantation Barnyard, equipment barn, camera facing northwest.
35. Friendfield Plantation, view north along Barnyard Road, camera facing north.

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36. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, easternmost (#1) cabin, camera facing north.
37. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, cabin #1 foundation, camera facing east.
38. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, cabin #1 interior, camera facing southwest.
39. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, cabin #4 and pumphouse, camera facing southeast.
40. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, double cabin (#6) with office in background, camera facing southeast.
41. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, cabin #6 interior west room, chimney detail, camera facing east.
42. Friendfield Plantation Slave Street, Office, north facade, camera facing southeast.
43. Friendfield Plantation, kennel, camera facing east.
44. Friendfield Plantation Manager's House, camera facing southeast.
45. Friendfield Plantation Assistant Manager's House, camera facing northeast.
46. Friendfield Plantation, view north along Picnic Shed Road, camera facing north.
47. Friendfield Plantation, fence bank road, Midway Plantation, camera facing northwest.
48. Friendfield Plantation, typical pine field, Midway Plantation, camera facing west.
49. Friendfield Plantation, 1974 power lines, camera facing north.
50. Friendfield Plantation, picnic shed, camera facing east.
51. Friendfield Plantation, 1991 pines at north side of Creek Road, camera facing north.
52. Friendfield Plantation, fish factory, fish oil tank, camera facing southeast.
53. Friendfield Plantation, clubhouse at Ports Creek, camera facing northeast.
54. Friendfield Plantation, Withers Cemetery, camera facing northwest.
55. Friendfield Plantation, Midway Cemetery, general view with grave marker, Jessie Green Sr., 1910-1988, camera facing west.

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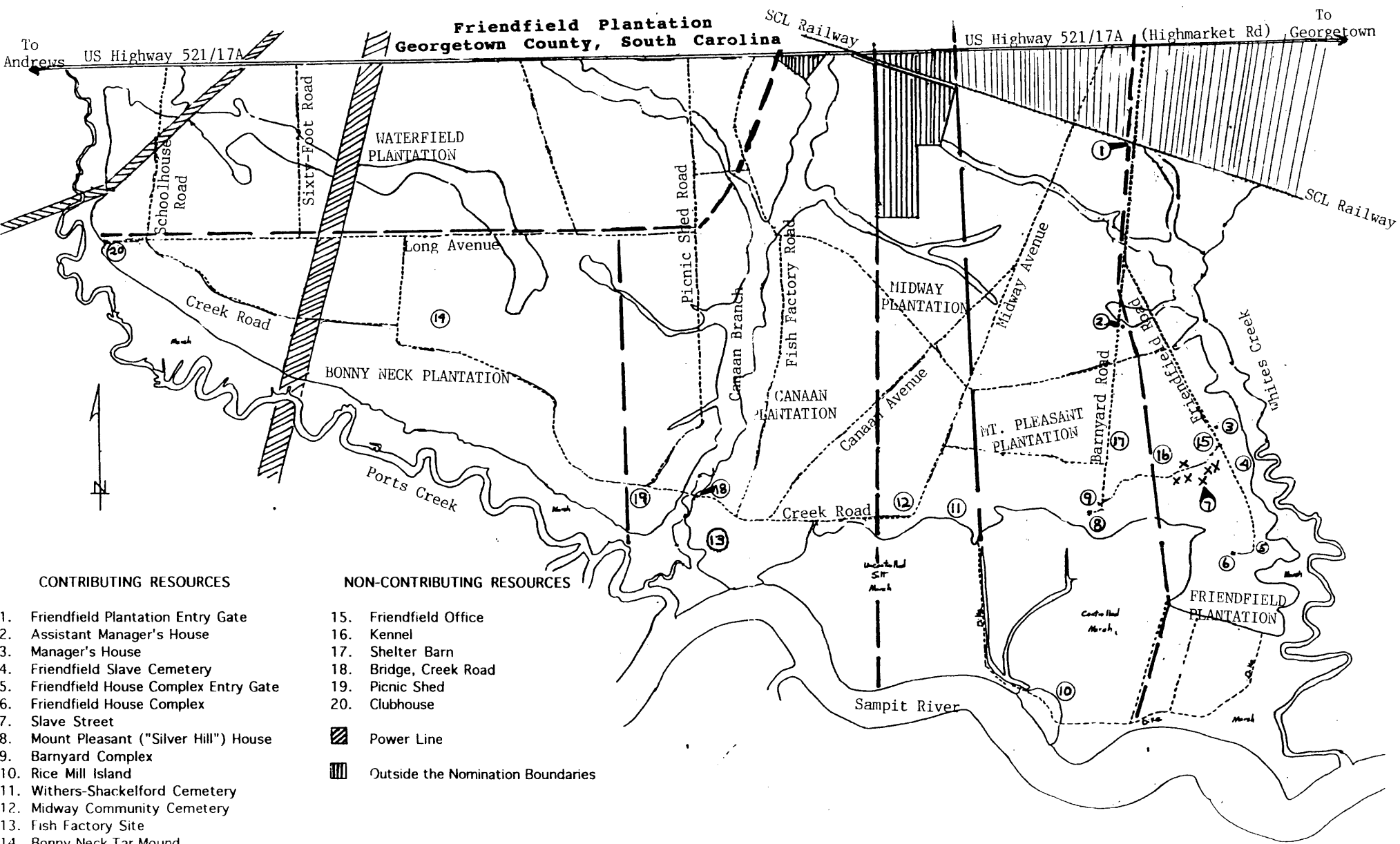
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Additional UTM References

5: 17 650480 3696000  
6: 17 653060 3696000



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**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

**NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

1. Friendfield Plantation Entry Gate
2. Assistant Manager's House
3. Manager's House
4. Friendfield Slave Cemetery
5. Friendfield House Complex Entry Gate
6. Friendfield House Complex
7. Slave Street
8. Mount Pleasant ("Silver Hill") House
9. Barnyard Complex
10. Rice Mill Island
11. Withers-Shackelford Cemetery
12. Midway Community Cemetery
13. Fish Factory Site
14. Bonny Neck Tar Mound

15. Friendfield Office
  16. Kennel
  17. Shelter Barn
  18. Bridge, Creek Road
  19. Picnic Shed
  20. Clubhouse
-  Power Line  
 Outside the Nomination Boundaries