

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Edgefield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 405 1387	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Darby Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
U.S. Route 25, 3 mi. <sup>SE</sup> of Edgefield, on S side of road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Trenton Edg. field vicinity

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Edgefield      CODE: 037

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Darby Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Edgefield      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

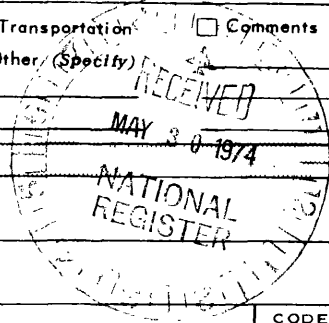
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal     State     County     Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRY NUMBER: 405 1387  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

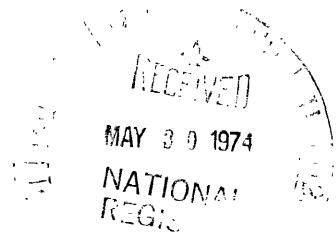
The 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters have shaped lintels on the first floor. The house is five bayed; there are five windows on both the front and rear facades of the second story, and four windows with a central door on the front of the first story. A one-room, one-story brick addition to the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

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

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

Surroundings: There was a terraced garden in front of the house in the 19th Century and a few old rose bushes still remain. There is a circular drive in front of the house and old hardwood trees are located around the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

ca. 1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Darby Plantation was built ca. 1842 by Nathaniel Lipscomb Griffith for his daughter, who married Milledge Luke Bonham. Bonham, prominent in military affairs, was Governor of South Carolina from 1862 to 1864. This plantation house served as his residence from 1845 until the outbreak of the War Between the States.

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

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

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Chapman, John A. History of Edgefield County. Newberry, S.C.: Aull, 1897.  
Governor's Papers (1862-1864), S.C. Archives. Columbia, S.C.  
 "Life and Times of Governor Milledge Luke Bonham." Edgefield Advertiser.  
 July, 19, 1941.  
 McCrady, Edward. Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas.  
 Vol. I. Madison Wis., Brant & Fuller, 1892. pp. 88-89.

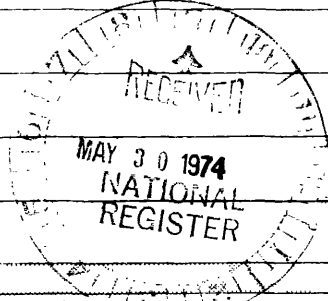
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			34	45	10	81	53	13
NE	0			0								
SE	0			0								
SW	0			0								

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. Matthew H. Mims, Edgefield**  
**John Califf, Historic Preservation Division County Historical Society**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **May 6, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street**

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee  
 Charles E. Lee

Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
 S.C. Dept. of Archives and History

Date May 20, 1974

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

A. R. Montross  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/13/74

ATTEST:  
W. J. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.1.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS