

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Ald. Historical Commission

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 an 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 Cuba Plantation

other names/site number The Sam Bethea Place

2. Location

street & number Marengo County Road 54, west of State Highway 25 N/A not for publication

city or town Faunsdale vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Marengo code AL091 zip code 36738

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

5-25-93
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State of 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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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 the Keeper

Entered in the

Date of Action

[Signature]

7/13/93

Cuba Plantation
Name of Property

Marengo County, Alabama
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	3	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
9	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Plantations of the Alabama Canebrake and their associated outbuildings (1818-1942)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Domestic/secondary structure

Agriculture/subsistence/storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure/vacant

Domestic/secondary structure/storage

Agriculture/subsistence/vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th century

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other _____

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1850 - c. 1890

Significant Dates

c. 1850, c. 1870, c. 1880, c. 1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

Cuba Plantation
Name of Property

Marengo County, Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 313 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	4 3 7 9 2 0	3 5 8 9 7 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 6	4 3 9 5 2 0	3 5 8 9 7 1 0

3	1 6	4 3 7 9 2 0	3 5 8 8 9 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 6	4 3 9 4 9 0	3 5 8 8 9 2 0

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 Jeff Mansell; Melanie Betz/AHC Reviewer - 205/242-3184

organization Cahaba Trace Commission date February 10, 1993

street & number Route 1, Box 147 telephone (205) 665-7982

city or town Brierfield state Alabama zip code 35035

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bethea

street & number 309 Burnet Drive telephone (713) 424-8280

city or town Baytown state Texas zip code 77520

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 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Cuba Plantation
Marengo County, Alabama

Cuba Plantation is located on Marengo County Road 54, southwest of Faunsdale and west of State Highway 25 in Section 14, Township 17N Range 4 East. Cuba was a working-plantation of Andrew P. Calhoun, son of John C. Calhoun, the South Carolina statesman. The plantation was adjacent to the Calhoun's Tulip Hill, upon which the planter's family resided. The plantation complex consists of a main house, two log outbuildings, a laundry building, a corncrib, a dovecote, two modern tenant houses and a garage/shed building. The approach is from the south through a dense grove of hardwood trees, winding through the thicket to the west. The main house faces west and the outbuildings are located immediately behind and to the north of the dwelling. The main house was constructed circa 1870 incorporating two earlier two room cabins which were located on the property. The two cabins were aligned and connected by a central hall. A second story was then added over the hall and above the two rooms lying directly north.

The main house is a two story frame structure, covered in weatherboarding, with cross gable roof of asphalt shingles. The facade (west) is asymmetrical, with a two story block flanked on the right by a one story wing, creating a two over three bay facade. A two story wing, slightly recessed from the facade, is located to the left of the central block. A full width porch with a half hip roof and supported by six square columns, runs the entire width of the lower floor of the facade. The front facing gable of the two story block contains decorative shinglework, a louvered vent, and cross braced stickwork. Classical pilasters are attached to the corners of the two story block. The double leaf entrance with full transom and sidelights is centrally located in the middle bay of the lower floor. The windows on the facade are all 4/4 double hung sash.

The south elevation features two bays on the one story wing, a bay window and double window, while two upper story windows can be seen at either end of the two story block. The eastern elevation, the rear of the main house, has a two over four bay facade. A single leaf entrance with transom is located in the first bay while a single leaf bay with full transom and sidelights is positioned in the second bay. The kitchen wing at the extreme right, projects slightly from the plane of the house. A partial width, shed roof porch with four classical posts is attached to the rear of the house. The two bays of the upper story contain an early 9/6 pane sash and a later 4/4 pane sash. A decorative louvered vent is positioned in the center of the front facing gable. Noticeable on the rear facade is the seam where the house two cabins were joined. The southern half of the central block projects slightly from the remainder of the facade. The cabins were of uneven dimensions and when joined, the southern rooms were slightly larger than the northern rooms, resulting in a slight projection along the wall surface.

The two story wing with front facing gable is centered on the western elevation with a two bay facade on the first floor and a half hipped roof porch with two square classical posts. The one story kitchen wing is located on the left while the western side of the two story central block is evident to the right.

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Marengo County, Alabama

The interior of the main house contains a central hall plan with flanking double rooms. The staircase is located at the rear of the hall. The parlor and a bedroom are located to the right of the hall while a bedroom and dining room are located to the left. A small hallway, bathroom, and kitchen are located off the bedroom and dining rooms. The house contains a mixture of early and later mantles and detailing. Greek Revival moldings and mantles are found in the parlor and bedroom to the right of the hallway while later Victorian mantles and detailing are evident in the rooms lying to the north of the hallway. The upstairs contains three bedrooms and a bath.

The historic and significant outbuildings are arranged around the perimeter of a rectangular fenced in area, immediately behind the main house. Two cement cisterns topped by lattice work screens flank the house on the north and south sides. A log outbuilding which once may have served as the plantation kitchen and then later as an office, is located immediately behind the main house to the northeast. The single pen structure features the V-notching technique, a side gable roof, a single leaf entrance door, and a large end chimney which has been reconstructed. Another log outbuilding, located behind the main house to the southeast, may have served at one time as an agricultural storage building. This log structure is similar in form to the kitchen but does not have a chimney nor any windows. Both of these log structures were constructed circa 1850. The frame kitchen immediately to the north of the log kitchen is a rectangular building with a side gable roof, single leaf entrance, and full width porch. This structure was built in the late 1800s and was at one time connected to the main house by a covered passageway. The dovecote is a square structure resting on four poles with a hip roof with wooden shingles and capped by a small finial. Portions of each side of the structure are exposed to allow for the egress of doves into the structure. The interior contains nine tiers of square box like partitions. The dovecote was probably constructed in the 1880s. A small frame laundry building with a side gable roof, single leaf entry bay, and shed roof porch, lies directly behind the main house to the east. This building was constructed ca. 1890 for the Bethea family. A deteriorated corncrib, dating from the mid-19th century lies to the northeast of the house, at a distance of approximately 150 yards. A modern shed/garage structure is located immediately to the north and perpendicular to the main house. Two concrete block tenant houses are also located on the property and these structures date from the 1950s.

Comprising approximately 313 acres of the original plantation acreage, the Cuba Plantation complex contains nine contributing buildings and structures and three non-contributing structure. The plantation retains a high degree of integrity in regard to craftsmanship, design, materials, feeling, association, and setting.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3Cuba Plantation
Marengo County, Alabama**Criterion C: Architecture**

The Cuba Plantation is significant under National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of a plantation complex of the Canebrake region of Alabama. The plantation was formed in the 1830s and today, the complex reflects not only the early development of the plantation but the subsequent changes and alterations. The plantation complex contains a number of unique and significant structures, reflecting the evolution of building techniques and materials over a one hundred year period.

Historical Summary

In 1835, John C. Calhoun, the great South Carolina statesman and his son Andrew purchased 1,140 acres of land known as the Tulip Hill plantation, near the present day community of Faunsdale, Marengo County, Alabama. In 1840, Andrew Calhoun purchased Cuba, a second plantation adjacent to Tulip Hill on the west, consisting of approximately 840 acres. Cuba was a working plantation; the management of the plantation was left to an overseer. In the mid-1850s, Andrew Calhoun sold Tulip Hill plantation, his principal residence and returned to South Carolina where he purchase his father's estate, Fort Hill. He retained possession of Cuba, however, eventually adding an additional 420 acres to the property. The 1860 census notes that Cuba was under the management of Anderson Walker, an overseer from South Carolina. The plantation was worked by 100 slaves and produced 340 bales of cotton. Calhoun's property and personal estate was valued in 1860 at \$174,275.

In 1860, Andrew Calhoun sold his plantation to T. B. Bethea of Montgomery although the transaction and final payment of the property was not finalized until 1865. After the war, Henry Bethea, son of T. B. Bethea, moved to Cuba and took up residence on the plantation. Henry was a widower; his wife, the daughter of S. F. Rice, died before the family moved to the Cuba plantation. Cuba remains in the possession of the Bethea family and today is owned by Samuel Rice Bethea of Baytown, Texas. ¹

Archaeological Potential

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made at the Cuba plantation, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies and other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

Period of Significance

The period of significance extends ca. 1850 to ca. 1890 reflecting the dates of the earliest extant structures (log buildings) to the time of construction for the frame laundry building.

¹John Witherspoon Dubose, "Chronicles of the Canebrake," Alabama Historical Quarterly, Winter, 1947, pp. 591-592; Federal Census of 1860, Marengo County. Interview with Samuel Rice Bethea, Houston, Texas, September 20, 1992.

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Cuba Plantation
Marengo County, Alabama

Verbal Boundary Description

The southern half of Section 14, Township 17 North, Range 4 East, comprising approximately 313 acres and being the same tract of land owned by Samuel Rice Bethea. For exact boundaries, please see tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary lines of the Cuba have been drawn to include that portion of the original tract of land which contains the historic resources of the plantation and which at one time was part of the original Calhoun plantation as established around 1840.

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Cuba Plantation
Marengo County, Alabama

Photographs

The information in sections 1-5 for all photographs is the same.

1. Cuba Plantation
2. Faunsdale vicinity, Marengo County, Alabama
3. Christine Rottmeir, photographer
4. Fall, 1989: There has been no change to the property as of October 24, 1992.
5. Negatives on file Alabama Historical Commission
6. Front facade, camera facing east
7. #1

6. Main house, front facade and southern elevation, camera facing northeast
7. #2

6. Main house, rear (east) elevation, camera facing west
7. #3

6. Main house, southern elevation, camera facing north
7. #4

6. Main house, northern elevation, camera facing southeast
7. #5

6. Laundry building, camera facing east
7. #6

6. Log outbuilding, camera facing southeast
7. #7

6. Log kitchen, camera facing east
7. #8

6. Log kitchen, camera facing southeast
7. #9

6. Rear of tenant house, camera facing southwest
7. #10

6. Front of tenant house, camera facing east
7. #11

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Cuba Plantation
Marengo County, Alabama

6. Dovecote, camera facing south

7. #12

6. Interior of main house, first floor hallway, camera facing east

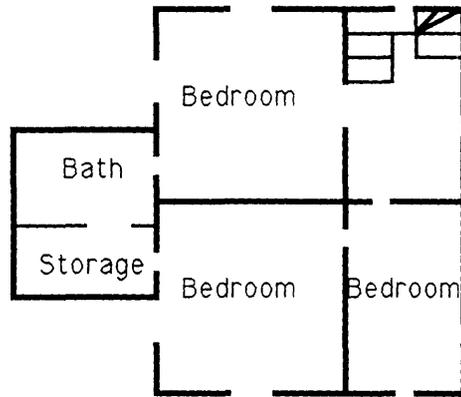
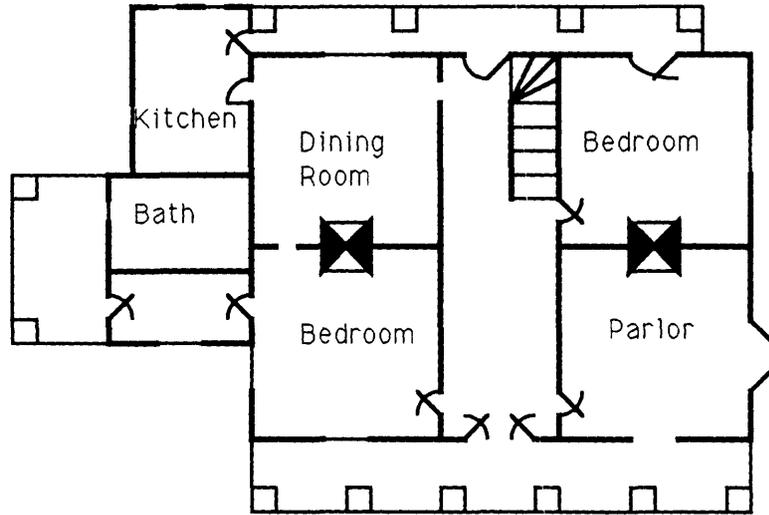
7. #13

6. Detail of dining room mantle, camera facing west

7. #14

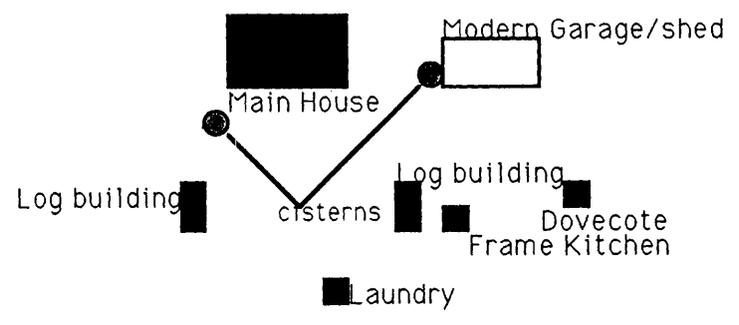
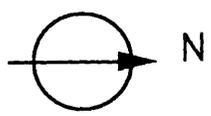
6. Detail of parlor mantle, camera facing west

7. #15



CUBA PLANTATION
 MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA

Tenant House 



Corncrib 

Tenant House 

Marengo County Road 54

Cuba - The Bethea Place Faunsdale Vicinity Marengo County, Alabama Site plan

- Contributing Structures
- Noncontributing Structures

Boundary line for Sections 13 and 14, Township 17, Range 4 East

