

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Mulberry Plantation

and/or common Mulberry Plantation

**2. Location**

*S of Camden on U.S. 521*

street & number U.S. Hwy. 521, about 3 miles south of Camden, S.C.  not for publication

city, town Camden *SC.*  vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state South Carolina code 045 county Kershaw code 055

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mulberry Resources, Inc.

street & number Mulberry Plantation, P.O. Box 623

city, town Camden  vicinity of state South Carolina 29020

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kershaw County Courthouse

street & number Broad Street

city, town Camden state South Carolina 29020

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of Historic Places  
in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mulberry Plantation is located on the east bank of the Wateree River in Kershaw County, South Carolina, about three miles south of Camden on U.S. Highway 521. The Federal style plantation house was built as a winter residence ca. 1820 by James Chesnut III.

Exterior: Mulberry is a two and one-half story rectangular building with a raised basement. The walls are of brick, laid in Flemish bond. A narrow frame string course extends around the upper walls five courses beneath the cornice. The medium pitched slate roof has five inside end chimneys of equal height. There are three at the west end: one at the ridge line, and one each on the roof's northern and southern slopes. The chimneys at the east end are similarly arranged except there is no ridge line chimney. Solid copper gutters have top boxes embossed with the initials "J.C." and "1820" at the house's four corners.

The facade (south elevation) is five bays wide and is dominated by a one story porch ascended by eleven wide marble steps. The porch has a metal shed roof supported by six widely spaced slender Doric columns with pilasters at the side, which are joined by a balustrade. The porch's entablature is ornamented with bull's eye motifs and dentil moldings, the latter being repeated on the raked cornice. The entrance has double leaf panelled doors with semicircular fanlight and interlaced leaded glass design sidelights. The six over six double hung windows are flanked by the original shutters, which are louvered on the second story and panelled on the first. There are three gabled dormers, each having arched six over three double hung windows and embellished boxed cornice with return.

The east elevation has twelve windows in four bays. The pedimented gable has a boxed cornice with dentil molding which extends around the roof line. A central tripartite window with relieving arch is surmounted by a lunette, which was bricked in ca. 1900.

The west elevation has thirteen windows in unevenly spaced bays in response to the interior floor plan. The extra window on the first floor was inserted sometime after 1912. A bricked in lunette placed high in the gable is situated above two small widely spaced windows.

The rear (north elevation) has two modern one story additions ca. 1920 joined by a screened porch. The second story of the main house has four windows and a central mid-story tripartite window with relieving arch. It is surmounted by a semicircular bricked arch.

Interior: Mulberry Plantation's main floor has a central-hall-with-five-rooms floor plan. There are five bedrooms on the second floor and four bedrooms, a nursery, and kitchenette on the third. Baths have been built into what were originally dressing rooms on the upper floors, and an elevator was installed in a first floor coat closet. No walls have been moved in any of the above changes. The basement, which once housed a wine cellar, pantries, and storerooms, is still used primarily for utilitarian purposes.

Mulberry's main floor hallway remains its finest feature, with woodwork of extraordinary nineteenth century craftsmanship. The hall is visually divided by a semicircular arch supported by Ionic columns. Four doors, one of which is false, are flanked by Ionic pilasters on pedestals. Each overdoor is composed of an embellished entablature which is broken forward over the pilasters. Door jambs are panelled and door knobs are of

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silver. The front doorway has an elaborate double pilastered and entablatured surround which is visually and architecturally restated in the hallway arch. Chair-rail and cornice moldings form repeating horizontal patterns. The back portion of the hallway is dominated by a freestanding elliptically curving staircase.

Surroundings: Mulberry Plantation house is surrounded by wooded and open farm land. The approximately 60 acres nominated includes three contributing outbuildings: a one story ca. 1820 servants' cottage with modern addition at the rear (north side) of the main house, and two log barns ca. 1840 to the northwest. The house is approached by a long oak lined carriage lane which follows a causeway over a large pond. The grounds are informally landscaped.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1820

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mulberry Plantation is located on the east bank of the Wateree River in Kershaw County, South Carolina about three miles south of Camden on U.S. highway 521. The Federal style plantation house was built about 1820 by James Chesnut III. Mulberry is historically notable for its association with members of the Chesnut family, particularly General James Chesnut IV and his diarist wife, Mary Boykin Chesnut. The range of their influence in things political, military, social and literary helped shape the history of the county, the state, and the South. Mulberry is architecturally significant as a remarkably fine example of Federal style, particularly in its interior details, and for retaining its integrity of association, setting, design, materials, and workmanship.

James Chesnut III (1773-1866), commonly called Colonel James Chesnut, built Mulberry Plantation house in 1820 on Chesnut family lands. Wealthy (his land holdings being some five miles square on Camden's south side) and a natural leader, James Chesnut held several local and county offices. His statewide service included four terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives and two terms in the South Carolina Senate. At his death Mulberry passed to his only surviving son James IV.

James Chesnut IV (1815-1885), commonly called James Chesnut, Jr., achieved the greatest renown of his line. He was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1840 and to the South Carolina Senate in 1852, achieving the distinction of its presidency from 1856-1858. He became a United States Senator in 1858 where his ability as an orator made him a leader of the Southern contingency. He had effectively stopped a secession movement in South Carolina in 1851, but the 1860 election of Lincoln decided the issue for Chesnut. He resigned his senate seat and returned home. Soon after he was elected one of Kershaw County's delegates to the Secession Convention, serving on the committee that drafted the secession ordinance. He was sent from South Carolina to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States 1861-1862 where he helped draft the permanent constitution. As an aide to General Beauregard, he was closely involved in the happenings at the fall of Fort Sumter. He was appointed Chief of the Military Department of South Carolina but resigned to become an aide, with the rank of colonel of cavalry, to President Jefferson Davis. Chesnut was to become one of President Davis's closest advisors for a period of two years. Chesnut desired field service, however, and so on April 23, 1864 he was given command of South Carolina's reserve forces with the rank of brigadier-general.

After the war the now disenfranchised James Chesnut was as politically active as the circumstances of Reconstruction permitted. He was a South Carolina delegate to the Democratic national convention in 1868 and the state convention in 1870. He was chairman of the executive committees of the Taxpayers Conventions of 1871 and 1874, and in 1876 he was chairman of the Kershaw County Democratic convention. He died in Camden at the age of seventy.

Mary Boykin (Miller) Chesnut (1823-1886), General James Chesnut's wife, is best known for her book A Diary From Dixie. A woman of brilliant social gifts, intelligent, and

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# 9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acres of nominated property 59.7

Quadrangle name Camden South, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Mulberry Plantation nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Kershaw County tax map entitled "Map No. 0951" and drawn at a scale of 1000 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rebecca Starr Cultural Resources Technician	Wayne Gray Santee-Lynches Council for Governments
organization	S.C. Dept. of Archives & History	date August 21, 1980
street & number	P.O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station	telephone (803) 758-5816
city or town	Columbia	state South Carolina 29211

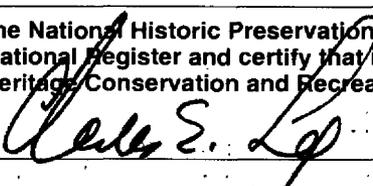
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

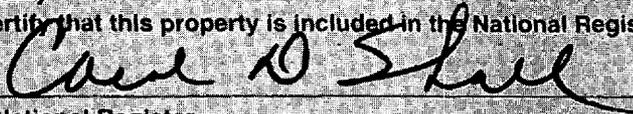


Charles E. Lee  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/25/80

For HCRS use only

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



date 11-25-80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carol Dubois

date 11/25/80

Chief of Registration

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above all articulate, her husband's career put Mary Chesnut in close touch with the men and women at the center of the social, military, and political life of the South. Her diary remains a prime source for any researcher into the period of American history from 1860-1865. At her death, Mulberry passed, by the terms of her husband's will, to descendents of Colonel James Chesnut in whose possession it remains today.

Architecture: Mulberry Plantation is one of the premier examples of Federal architecture in the South Carolina Upcountry. It is Georgian in its massing but of purely Federal derivation in its narrow fenestration, curving lines expressed in the fanlight and semi-circular arch of the dormer windows, and the light treatment of the portico by the wide spacing of slender columns. The rather plain exterior is a foil to the extraordinarily fine interior with its handsomely pilastered and entablatured doorways, engaged hallway arch, and a variety of delicate moldings. The elliptically curved stairway visually terminates in a ceiling medallion emphasizing the quality of "movement" typical of Federal design. Balance, perhaps the hallmark of Federal styling, is expressed in several ways. The use of a false door brings visual symmetry to an asymmetrical floor plan. Pattern repetition is employed vertically in the fanlight and opposing hallway arch, and horizontally in the chair-rail and cornice moldings. Such balance and counter balance establishes a recurrent architectural theme which is very satisfying.

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Published Sources

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Columbia, S.C. South Caroliniana Library. Postcard of Mulberry Plantation. Kershaw County picture file, ca. 1912.

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Sumter, S.C. Blueprint drawn by the Santee-Wateree Regional Planning Council, 27 July  
1976.