

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	South Carolina	
COUNTY:	Beaufort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
JUN 13 1972		

1. NAME

COMMON:  
John A. Cuthbert House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1203 Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Beaufort

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 29902 COUNTY: Beaufort CODE: 45

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural  
 Commercial  
 Educational  
 Entertainment  
 Government  
 Industrial  
 Military  
 Museum  
 Pork  
 Private Residence  
 Religious  
 Scientific  
 Transportation  
 Other (Specify)  
Apartments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Beaufort, S.C. by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright

DATE OF SURVEY: June 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic Beaufort Foundation Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Built c.1811, the Cuthbert House is typical of Beaufort architecture. Mounted on a raised foundation with central hallways on both floors extending from front to rear, the white clapboard house is designed to take advantage of the waterfront southwesterly breezes.

Facade has central, double-tiered portico supported by Tuscan columns. First floor entrance, surmounted by semi-elliptical fanlight and flanked by sidelights, has a pair of shuttered windows to either side. Alterations of the late 19th Century included addition of rooms, bay windows, Victorian trim and porches on either side of central portico.

House features excellent interior and exterior woodwork and retains its original fine proportions.

Garden at rear was planted with a variety of roses and a dozen orange trees which are said to have yielded several thousand oranges annually.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**5. 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) c. 1811

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" 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

Architecturally, the Cuthbert house is typical of Beaufort's gracious waterfront homes and is an important component of The Beaufort Historic District. As one of a row of antebellum houses along Bay Street, the Cuthbert House must remain intact to preserve the charm and continuity of this historic area which, unlike most urban communities, consists of free standing houses on large wooded lots. The lots are frequently laid out in formal gardens. In his book, A Second Visit to the United States, renowned English scientist, Sir Charles Lyell, described this area as "an assemblage of villas," each of which was "shaded by a verandah, surrounded by beautiful live oaks and orange trees laden with fruit."

In Historic Beaufort, South Carolina: A Report On the Inventory of Historic Buildings 1968-69, prepared for the Historic Beaufort Foundation by Carl Feiss, F.A.I.A., A.I.P and Russell Wright, A.I.A., the Cuthbert House is given highest rating and the necessity of its being preserved is emphasized. The house is presently in danger of demolition.

John Alexander Cuthbert was born 1790 in St. Helena's Parish, South Carolina. In 1811, he married Mary B. Williamson of Prince William's Parish, South Carolina for whom this house was built. Part of his bride's dowry consisted of a number of slaves which were conveyed to John A. and Mary B. Cuthbert by the bride's father, William Williamson, on December 3, 1811. Lawrence Fay Brewster in Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters mentions the Cuthbert House in his list of Beaufort town houses built by prominent planters of the area.

During the War Between the States, the Cuthbert House became the property of U.S. Army Brigadier-General Rufus Saxton. Henry Haithcock, Major and Assistant Adjutant, mentions the house in the following passage from his book Marching with Sherman: "The General came to Beaufort on the 23rd of January and stayed one day quartering at General Saxton's. The latter owns the house he lives in -- a large fine double house on Bay Street fronting the sea. He bought it at one of the U.S. Tax Sales and I was told gave \$1,000.00 for it."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barnwell, Stephen. Story of an American Family. Marquette, Illinois: 1969.

Brewster, Lawrence Fay. Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1947.

Haitcock, Henry. Marching with Sherman. Edited by Dewolfe Howe. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1927.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32	25	57.3
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	80	40	33
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Nancy R. Ruhf, Historic Preservation Coordinator I

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History DATE: 1/26/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Director, South Carolina Department of Archives & History

Date Nov. 4, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/13/72

ATTEST:  
William H. Bennett  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. Significance

General Saxton became director of freedmen affairs and cultivation in June 1862 when this responsibility was shifted from the Treasury to the War Department. It was Saxton's duty to take possession of abandoned plantations in the Beaufort area, set up regulations for their cultivation and protect the freedmen in their industry and products. He was sympathetic with the Negroes and hoped to carry out a social experiment which would mold freedmen into hard-working, independent citizens. He experienced great difficulty in managing the numerous plantations in his charge, and in 1863-1864 the government gave up the idea of a social experiment and began to auction or lease the plantations. After the land was disposed of, General Saxton continued his work with the Negroes by requiring the new plantation managers to set forth the terms of employment under which the freedmen would be expected to labor.



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JOHN A. CUTHBERT HOUSE

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Beaufort Foundation. A Guide to Historic Beaufort. Columbia, S.C. The State Printing Co., 1970.

Johnson, Guion Griffis. A Social History of the Sea Islands. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1930.

Lengnick, Lena. Beaufort Memoirs. 1937. Revised 1961.

Lyell, Charles. A Second Visit to the United States, Volume I. New York, 1854.

Webber, Mabel L. (contributor). "St. Helena's Parish Register." South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. 23:53.

