

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 14 1985**

date entered **SEP 12 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Springfield Plantation House

and or common

2. Location

street & number Approximately three miles north of Fort Mill on U.S. 21 (Business) NA not for publication

city, town Fort Mill vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county York code 091

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Anne Springs Close

street & number P.O. Box 100

city, town Fort Mill NA vicinity of state South Carolina 29715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number 100 South Congress Street

city, town York state South Carolina 29745

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Springfield Plantation House is a two-story, frame residence located in a rural area north of Fort Mill, South Carolina. The house was built prior to 1806, and has remained in the Springs family since its construction. It is known that John Springs III took his wife to live at the home after their marriage in January 1806.¹ A remodeling and enlargement project was undertaken during the mid-1850s.² Family tradition holds that this remodeling resulted in a lower front porch roof with smaller supporting columns and a wrought iron balustrade surrounding the porch. There was also a large addition to the rear of the house. The house was restored in 1946, at which time electricity and plumbing were added. The 1946 additions and alterations did not significantly change the character of Springfield, which remains an excellent example of an antebellum plantation house. Springfield is one of the oldest structures in eastern York County. It is the ancestral home of the Springs family and the site of notable historical events.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Springfield Plantation House consists of a central, two-story, gable-roofed block with pedimented gable ends and symmetrical gable-roofed wings with pedimented gable ends. The exterior is sheathed in weatherboard and is painted white. There is a one-story front porch which projects from the central block of the house. The porch has a hipped roof and a pediment over the front entrance stairs. The porch is supported by eight Ionic columns and has a wrought iron balustrade. Ornamental pendants which resemble acorns are placed between the columns. The facade of the central block of the house has five windows on the second story and four on the first, and a single central door with a rectangular transom and sidelights. The symmetrical one-story wings each have two windows on the facade. All windows on the facade are nine-over-nine. The rear (west) elevation consists of a two-story, twin-gabled addition with shed additions which extend to the south and north elevations. Projecting from the two-story addition is a gable-roofed screen porch and deck area. The right (north) elevation features a single-door entrance and a multi-light stair window. There are brick chimneys with corbeled caps on each end of the central block. Wooden shutters flank each window on the front of the house. The cornices of the main block, wings, and porch feature dentil detail and carved modillions on the facade. The roofing is modern composition shingle.

The interior of Springfield contains most of the original woodwork. The central-hall floor plan in the front section of the house is unchanged. The double front door is surrounded by thirteen panes of stained glass which supposedly represent the thirteen original states. A wide front entrance hall opens to identical parlors on either side. These rooms served as the main areas for entertainment. In the left (south) wing, the dining room features a fine mantel with sunburst-motif carving. The right (north) wing is composed of a large bedroom with bath. Some of the flooring on the first floor is made of walnut cut from the plantation and laid in the 1940s to replace the badly deteriorated original pine flooring.

The original first floor rooms feature fine woodwork and trim, including pine mantels, door molding and trim with corner blocks, and paneled doors.

The rear of the first floor contains a hallway with stairs and a modern kitchen. The main hallway leads out to a modern screened porch. The rear portion was added in the 1850s, and the stairs have the original pine wood.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1806, 1850s	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Springfield Plantation House, located north of Fort Mill, South Carolina, has remained in the Springs family since its construction before 1806. It is known that John Springs III took his bride, Mary, to live at Springfield Plantation after their marriage in January 1806. There is a tradition that the house was built by John Springs, Jr., in 1790.⁴ However, since no solid evidence for this date exists, we must accept the date of construction as sometime before 1806. This makes Springfield Plantation House one of the oldest homes in York County and certainly the oldest in the Fort Mill area. The house has never left the ownership of the Springs family, which has provided economic, political, and agricultural leadership to the area and nation.⁵ In addition, Springfield Plantation served as one of the final meeting places of the Confederate cabinet.

Architecture

Springfield Plantation House is one of the oldest documented frame buildings in York County. Its braced-frame structure and materials are typical of the era. The building is unusually elegant for the area; its generous proportions, classical details and ornamentation, and high-quality workmanship are evidence of a skilled builder, master craftsmen, and wealthy owner. Minor alterations have not destroyed its antebellum integrity.

Commerce/Industry/Agriculture

Several of the owners of Springfield have had significant roles in the development of commerce in the region and the nation. John Springs III, who occupied the house beginning around 1806, was a successful farmer who owned over 3,200 acres of land. His successful business investments helped to create some of South Carolina's economic growth in the years before the Civil War. In 1836 he entered a partnership which formed the Bank of Hamburg, and owned stock in at least three other banks. In 1845 he became one of the initial partners in the Graniteville Manufacturing Company, one of the state's first textile operations. John Springs was one of the pioneers in the development of the railroads in the state. He was president of the convention called in Charlotte, North Carolina, to initiate a railroad line between Charlotte and Columbia. He became one of the largest investors in the line, as well as other fledgling railroad companies.⁶

Andrew Baxter Springs, who inherited Springfield Plantation from his father John in the 1850s, was regarded as an agricultural pioneer in upper South Carolina, adopting new and innovative agricultural techniques. He planted a new orchard, began producing small grains for the market, and upgraded his livestock by buying new and improved varieties wherever they were available. He also expanded the family's business interests as an investor and director of several banks in Hamburg, Charleston, Camden, Cheraw, Chester, and Columbia, South Carolina. He became widely known as an investor and developer of rail lines. He was also involved in insurance, construction, mining, and retail interests.⁷

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.75

Quadrangle name Fort Mill

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 17 506565 3878195
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Springfield Plantation House nomination is shown as the bold black line on the accompanying York County Tax Map #730, drawn at a scale of one inch equals 330 feet. The nominated property includes the historic house, its immediate setting, and a nonsignificant outbuilding.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Gettys, Community Development Director & Debra J. Allen, National Register Assistant, South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

organization Catawba Regional Planning Council date January 23, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 862 telephone (803) 327-9041

city or town Rock Hill state South Carolina 29731

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/16/85

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 9/12/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The second floor has three bedrooms and baths. The two front bedrooms have original woodwork pine mantels, and pine flooring. The house also has a basement and an attic.

The house sits in a grove of large trees and is surrounded by a portion of the former plantation lands, which numbered over 3,200 acres at one time. No significant structures remain of the barns, slave quarters, and outbuildings.

Exterior alterations have occurred over the years. In the 1850s the house was remodeled and enlarged by the owner, Andrew Baxter Springs with Jacob Graves of Columbia serving as architect. Family tradition holds that an original two-story porch roof was lowered, the massive columns replaced by the present smaller Ionic columns, and the wrought iron balustrade added to the porch. In a letter from Jacob Graves to the owner of Springfield Plantation House the architect outlined the proposed rear addition. It was to run the width of the house and was to be one-story on either end rising to two-stories in the center to provide room for a stairway. Three large bedrooms, dressing rooms, and a bathroom would be added to the second floor.³ An old photograph reveals that some of the front porch ornamentation, probably added at this time, was later removed, and the front steps were narrowed and simplified.

In 1946, Elliott White Springs modernized the house with electrical wiring, central heat, plumbing, new flooring, and the addition of a kitchen and bathrooms within existing interior spaces. A large screened porch at the rear was also added in recent years.

While these alterations have considerably altered the interior configuration and have added significantly to the rear of the house, the basic character and much of the original detailing remain the same.

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Politics/Government

Several owners of Springfield Plantation have achieved significance in government service, and at least one historically significant event has occurred there.

Springfield Plantation's first owner, John Springs III (1782-1853) was prominent in local and state politics and government. He was a member of the South Carolina Legislature from 1828 to 1834, favoring a strong states rights stand within the union. He was serving in the legislature during the Nullification controversy in 1832. In 1839, John Springs served as one of five commissioners who negotiated the 1840 treaty with the Catawba Indian Nation at nearby Nations Ford.⁸

Andrew Baxter Springs (1819 - 1886) was elected to the South Carolina Legislature in 1852 and was elected a delegate to the South Carolina Secession Convention in 1860 and the state convention which ratified the constitution of the Confederacy in 1861. He became a Commissioner for Subscriptions for the Confederate government and was charged with the responsibility of raising supplies and rallying recruits. He attained the rank of colonel in the Confederate army.⁹

Springfield Plantation was the scene of important events in April 1865 involving the Confederate cabinet. On April 26, 1865, President Jefferson Davis of the Confederate States of America left Charlotte, North Carolina, in his flight during the last days of the Confederacy. With him were five members of his cabinet, a cavalry escort, supplies, and a portion of the Confederate archives and treasury. The President and several cabinet members spent the night at Springfield Plantation. The following morning President Davis assembled his cabinet and high ranking military officers on the front lawn of the house and conferred on future actions and the most advantageous route for further retreat. This was one of the last meetings at which most of the cabinet was present. Andrew Baxter Springs, owner of Springfield Plantation, advised the President that the cabinet should separate to avoid capture. It is believed that the group stayed at Springfield Plantation for two or three days, during which they rested, conferred, and found time for recreation such as a game of marbles on the parlor floor of Springfield Plantation House with two of Springs's sons.¹⁰ The group later moved to the nearby home of William E. White, where Secretary of the Treasury George A. Trenholm had stayed, for a further meeting. From there, they crossed the Catawba River and continued their flight across South Carolina.¹¹

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FOOTNOTES

¹Linda A. Hendrix, "The History of Springfield Plantation and Its Owners," Fort Mill, South Carolina, 1982, p. 2. (Typewritten.)

²Katherine Wooten Springs, The Squires of Springfield (Charlotte, North Carolina: Heritage Printers, 1965), p. 164; Jacob Graves to Owner of Springfield Plantation, Mid-1850s, copy of original in National Register files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; Julia A. Springs Gibson, Lineage and Tradition of the Family of John Springs III (Atlanta, Ga.: Foote and Davies Co., 1921), pp. 251 and 253.

³Ibid.

⁴William R. Bradford, Jr., Out of the Past: A History of Fort Mill South Carolina, 1600-1980 (Fort Mill, S.C.: Bradford Publishing Company, 1980), p. 43.

⁵Book 79, p. 617; Book 2, p. 370; Book 110, p. 261; Book 115, p. 299; Book 442, pp. 107-110, York County Deeds, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.; Case 24, File 1011, General Index, York County Probate Court, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.

⁶Book G. p. 39, York County Plats, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.; Hendrix, pp. 2-3.

⁷Hendrix, pp. 3-4; Springs, p. 163.

⁸Ibid., pp. 2-3; Walter B. Edgar and N. Louise Bailey, gen. eds., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, 3 vols. to date (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974-), vol. 1: Sessions Lists, 1692-1973, edited by Walter B. Edgar, pp. 321, 325, 329.

⁹Hendrix, pp. 3-5; Edgar, p. 369; Journals of the Convention of the People of South Carolina Held in 1832, 1833, and 1852 (Columbia, S.C.: R. W. Gibbes, State Printer, 1860), p. 319.

¹⁰Springs, p. 235; Bradford, p. 43; James E. Walmsley, "The Last Meeting of the Confederate Cabinet," Bulletin of the Winthrop Normal and Industrial College of South Carolina, vol. 12, no. 4, part 2, June 1919, (Rock Hill, S.C.: Winthrop Normal and Industrial College), p. 9.

¹¹Walmsley, p. 9.

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Gibson, Julia A. Springs. Lineage and Tradition of the Family of John Springs III. Atlanta, Ga.: Foote and Davies Company, 1921.

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Walmsley, James Elliott. "The Last Meeting of the Confederate Cabinet." Winthrop Normal and Industrial College Bulletin 12 (June 1919): 3-14.

York, S.C. York County Courthouse. York County Deed Books 2, 79, 110, 115, 242, 442; York County Plat Book G: York County Probate Court Record Case 24.