9. Society and Social Conscience

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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: Florence
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: JUL 22 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Slave Houses, Gregg Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Campus of Francis Marion College

CITY OR TOWN: Mars Bluff

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District #6-Rep. Edward L. Young

STATE: South Carolina — CODE: 045

COUNTY: Florence — CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☒ Public	Public Acquisition:	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☐ Private	☐ In Process	☒ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☒ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify) unoccupied	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Francis Marion College

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Florence

STATE: South Carolina — CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Clerk of Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Florence County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Florence

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 | FOR NPS USE ONLY | ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 22 1974 | DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☒ Moved	☐ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR

These two unoccupied one-story log houses, built before 1831 to house slaves, are almost identical in exterior dimensions. Both consist of one 20' x 17' room with a 20' x 6' front porch created by the overhanging roof. For convenience, these houses are designated House #1 and House #2. House #1 has a one-room clapboard addition in the rear. House #2 had three rooms added, but these additions were stripped when the house was moved in 1971. Each side of each house has a shuttered window, but a door has replaced a window in House #2. The front of each house has a pine board door and shuttered window, and the rear has one door. There are no ornamental exterior features on either house.

The walls of each house are built of hand-hewn, horizontally laid 4" x 9" long-leaf pine logs. There is some question whether a pit saw was used for some of the logs in House #2 because of horizontal lines on the logs. The corners of the walls are formed by precisely dovetailed logs. Most of the chinking between the logs is missing and some small boards have been nailed to the logs to add support. The logs themselves are in good condition, but the house is somewhat unsettled structurally.

The gable roofs of both houses are covered with sheets of metal. The rafters rest on 25' ceiling beams overhanging 6' in front and 1' in back. The roof of House #1 has been extended at a lesser slope to cover the back section. Gables of both houses are covered with unpainted clapboard. Both houses rest on hewn foundation beams, some of which are missing under House #2. The original foundation stones, or pillars, were abandoned when the houses were moved; the houses now rest on concrete block and brick supports. The front porch of House #1 is laid in pine planking on the foundation sills. The porch roof extension is supported by pine pillar posts which extend to the foundation sills. House #1 is missing some of the pillar posts, while House #2 is missing the entire porch structure.

INTERIOR

Both houses have open ceilings, revealing ceiling beams, rafters, laths, and cross-bracings on the rafters. Some of the rafters are supported by queen posts. The interior walls have the same hewn logs as the exterior walls. Posts supporting the ceiling beams are visible at the corners. Bare pine floor planks rest on half-hewn log sills. The windows and doors are simply framed with one-piece sills, posts, and jams.

Both houses are missing their 5' x 4' fireplaces, although the rough, unpainted mantelpieces remain. The pine board doors have hand-forged iron strap hinges attached to the frames with 6' spikes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* ca. 1831

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religian/Philosophy	☒ Other *(Specify)* Black History
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Londscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

These two log houses were built before 1831 to house slaves on the Gregg Plantation near Florence, South Carolina. They were among seven houses of similar construction placed on opposite sides of a "street" leading to the plantation house. After the War Between the States the houses were moved to a different area of the same plantation, where the residents took up farming for wages and subsistence. The houses were occupied until 1950.

BLACK HISTORY

From 1820 to 1930, the majority of South Carolina's population were Blacks. Before the War Between the States, most of these Blacks lived as slaves on plantations. The "street" pattern for arranging houses was widely used. During Reconstruction the former slave houses continued to be used by their original occupants. Often these houses were moved from their original locations to form more autonomous communities, but the tenant and wage farmers occupying them continued to be partially dependent upon the plantation economy. Their lifestyles involved hunting, fishing, garden farming, livestock raising, and trades as well as plantation field work. Many of these former slave houses were continuously occupied through the middle of the twentieth century.

ARCHITECTURE

These former slave houses, originally almost duplicate in design, illustrate an early practice of mass production of unit dwellings. Much of the skilled labor in Southern plantation buildings was done by black craftsmen and artisans, using the same craftsmanship that went into elegant plantation owners' houses. The craftsmanship shown in these dovetailed, hewn logs is usually not attributed to work found in slave dwellings. These small houses incorporate many of the same architectural elements found in larger Southern houses. The open front porches covered by roof overhang and supported by pillar posts, the gable roofs, and rear addtions are all typical of the region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, R.A. Survey of J. Eli Gregg Estate. Nov. 30, 1870.
Mills, Robert. Atlas of the State of South Carolina 1825.
Tindall, George B. South Carolina Negroes (1877-1900). University of South Carolina Press: Columbia, 1952.
Weslager, C.A. The Log Cabin in America. Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, 1969.
Petty, Julian J. The Growth and Distribution of Population in South Carolina. S.C. State Planning Board: Columbia, 1943.
State Land Plats (1784-1840) Volume 40, page 233. S.C. State Archives.

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"						
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	34	11	27	79	39	08
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Califf, III - Historic Preservation Division; Dr. Wayne King - Francis Marion College

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE: Jan. 9, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 045

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

Title: Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Date: Jan. 28, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/22/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/19/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973—729-147/1442 3-1

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Florence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 2 2 1974	

(Number all entries)

Slave Houses

7. DESCRIPTION cont.

SURROUNDINGS

These houses were built on the J. Eli Gregg plantation before 1831 to house slaves. They were in a group of seven houses placed on either side of a "street" leading to the plantation house. Before 1870, the houses were moved several hundred yards to form a new community. Occupied until the early 1950s, the houses were again moved in 1971 for the construction of the Francis Marion College Library. Their present location is actually nearer to their original site, near the old plantation house, which burned in the 1920s. The houses were never removed from the original plantation property, which is now largely owned by Francis Marion College. Today both houses stand in an uncultivated field at the edge of the woods.

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