

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE: South Carolina | |
| COUNTY: Charleston | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
DuBose Heyward House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
76 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: COUNTY: Charleston CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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 |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |
| Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ross Hanahan, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
78 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

The DuBose Heyward House is a two-and-one-half-story building of three bays. The tile roof is hipped and has a single dormer on the street side. When the present owners purchased the house they also bought the large residence next to it. To make the pair a single unit, the owners removed the wall between the two structures. On the ground floor this alternation, accomplished with the use of steel beams, produced an elongated dining room, and, on the second floor, a good-sized bedroom. At the same time, the entrance door at 76 Church Street was changed into a window.

The house is maintained in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1919-1924

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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of DuBose Heyward rests primarily on his novel, *Porgy*, which inspired the famed folk opera *Porgy and Bess*. In this novel, Heyward chose for his setting the Negro community of Charleston, and for his protagonist a crippled beggar whose struggle he treated with sensitivity and insight. The result was a dramatic story which has attained the status of a national legend.

Heyward lived at number 76 Church Street from approximately 1919 to 1924.¹ The house has been substantially altered, and now serves as a wing of the house which it adjoins.

Biography

DuBose Heyward was born into an aristocratic family in Charleston, South Carolina, on August 31, 1885. When DuBose was two years old, his father died in an accident, and he was left the only man in a family of four. His family suffered poverty, and in order to help the boy began selling newspapers at age nine. When he was fourteen, he left school entirely to work as a clerk in a hardware store. At the end of two years of heavy work, he was stricken with poliomyelitis; although he recovered his hands were never completely normal. After his recovery, he worked on the Charleston waterfront as a cotton warehouse checker. This job brought him into constant daily contact with the waterfront Negroes, and he later used the knowledge which he gained of their characters and life style in his writing. At age 22, he went into the insurance business but found his artistic need a real one, so nine years later, he moved into the North Carolina mountains where he began to paint and write poems.

--continued on Form 10-300a--

1. This information was provided by Mrs. Rudolph of the Historic Charleston Foundation, who obtained it from the files of the *Charleston Courier*.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Durham, Frank. *DuBose Heyward, The Man Who Wrote Porgy*. South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.
 Haycraft, Howard and Kunitz, Stanley J. eds. *Twentieth Century American Authors*. New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1942.
 _____ . *Twentieth Century American Authors*. Supplement, New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1963.
 Spiller, Robert E. et al. *A Literary History of the United States*. 3rd rev. ed., New York: The Macmillan Co., 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | 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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° | ' | " |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° | ' | " |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° | ' | " |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° | ' | " |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4

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 |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 John McDermott, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
 801 - 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (1)

DuBose Heyward House

Mr. Heyward was rejected for military service in World War I because of his health. Instead, he stayed in Charleston and did organization work among Negroes and worked on his poetry. After the armistice, through his acquaintance with John Bennett, he met Hervey Allen, who later gained fame as the author of *Anthony Adverse*. These three men founded the South Carolina Poetry Society which helped stimulate the Southern literary renaissance. Allen and Heyward also collaborated on a book of poems dealing with legends and landscapes of Charleston which was published in 1922 under the title *Carolina Chansons*.

During the summer of 1919, DuBose Heyward met Dorothy Hartzell Kahns, a drama student at Harvard, at the McDowell Artists' Colony in Petersborough, New Hampshire. They were married in 1923, and in 1924 he published his second volume of poetry, *Skylines and Horizons*.

Shortly after his marriage, Heyward sold his interest in the insurance business in Charleston and moved to the North Carolina Mountains where he began to write *Porgy* (1925). *Porgy* won instant recognition. It was referred to as the first novel written about the character of an American Negro which was at once true to life and a work of art. Mr. and Mrs. Heyward worked together on the dramatization of *Porgy* and the play was produced on Broadway in 1927.

Among Heyward's other books are *Angel* (1926), *The Half-Pint Flask* (1929), *Mamba's Daughters* (1929), produced in 1939 as a play, *Jasbo Brown and Selected Poems* (1931), *Peter Ashley* (1932), *Brass Ankle* (1931), *Lost Morning* (1936), and *Star Spangled Virgin* (1937). But it is *Porgy* which he is remembered for today. It is *Porgy* that grew from a novel, to a play, to the first American folk opera *Porgy and Bess* which DuBose wrote in collaboration with George Gershwin.

Mr. Heyward spent the last years of his life aiding in the restoration of the historic Dock Street Theatre in Charleston, South Carolina, and in using it as a base to revive Southern Theatre. He spent the last year of his life as resident playwright to the Dock Street Theatre where he surrounded himself with promising dramatists who he aided and advised. He died of a heart attack, at Tryon, North Carolina, at the age of fifty-four.

DuBose Heyward began as a poet. In fact he, along with John Bennett and Hervey Allen founded the Poetry Society of South Carolina in 1920. The society contributed to the development of poets, poetry, and an appreciative public. Yet his early poetic work with the exception of

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (2)

DuBose Heyward House

two poems, "The Mountain Woman" and "A Yoke of Steers," is notable only because it served as preparation for Heyward's later narrative and dramatic works with the exception of *Mamba's Daughters* (1929).

Heyward's later dramatic works failed to measure up to the brilliance of *Porgy* (1925). In fairness, however, one must remember that as an artist Heyward constantly set himself new problems to solve and that experimentation was more important to him than was boxoffice success. DuBose Heyward's claim to fame is *Porgy* (1925), and it is a solid claim. As Frank Durham wrote:

Since *Porgy's* first appearance more than a quarter of a century ago, Americans and people everywhere have known and loved the story of the little cripple with his odoriferous goat and his one triumphant summer of love, heroism, and tragedy.

When *Porgy* appeared in 1925, it was unique in our national letters because it presented the Southern Negro as a human being and not a pathetic character introduced in the story to provide comic relief nor as a subject for social propaganda. *Porgy* is also an example of local color at its best for it records a way of life fading into the past.

Porgy at last became *Porgy and Bess*, the first American folk opera to win widespread recognition. Therefore DuBose Heyward's *Porgy* is an enduring contribution to American letters, theater, and opera. Again Frank Durham states:

But most of all *Porgy* has become a part of native folklore, its characters and their romantic story having gradually so embedded themselves into the group consciousness that the name of their creator is almost forgotten.