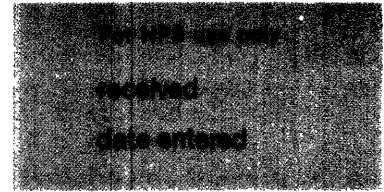


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 The Rainey - Camlin House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 909 Prince Street not for publication

city, town Georgetown vicinity of congressional district

state South Carolina code 045 county Georgetown code 043

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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Camlin

street & number 909 Prince Street

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Clerk of Court, Georgetown County Court House

street & number Screven at Prince Street

city, town Georgetown state South Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered
Minor

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rainey-Camlin House stands on the south side of Prince Street approximately midway between King and Orange Streets in Georgetown. The immediate area is residential in character, although both commercial and industrial properties are located nearby. The 3 x 5 bay residence is a fine example of the Georgetown single house, set with its narrow end facing the street. It is of particular architectural interest because it retains much of its original interior woodwork. Structural evidence suggests that the house dates from about 1760.

The 2 1/2 story frame structure is sheathed with beaded clapboards. It carries a box cornice and a hipped roof broken by hipped dormers. Brick piers support the simple one-story, hip-roofed porch that spans the east elevation of the house. The 6-panel front door and most of the double-hung window sash are original; the latter are 9/9 lights on the first floor, 9/6 on the second. Twin chimneys are located on the west side of the house.

The Rainey-Camlin House follows the standard plan for single houses, with two rooms on each of the main floors. The wide center hall contains a simple dog-leg stairway. Although the newel post and some of the treads and balusters have been replaced, the wave brackets, paneling, and door under the stairs are original, as is the hallway wainscot. There are turned pendant drops at ceiling level.

The parlor and dining room (first floor, north and south respectively) as well as the main bedroom (second floor, north) feature excellent mantels (those in the parlor and bedroom have candlelight modling); paneled doors and wainscot, and molded door and window surrounds. Closets flank the fireplaces in all three rooms. Detail in the rear chamber on the second floor is limited to a simple mantel and molded door and window surrounds. Original cypress paneling on the attic walls is still in place, but has been sheathed with upsom board. Some partitions have been removed to create a single large space on this story. Floors throughout the house are the original wide pine boards.

When the present owners acquired the Rainey-Camlin House, the historic fabric was badly deteriorated though essentially intact. A complete and careful restoration was carried out in 1973-74. At the same time an addition, containing a modern kitchen and sitting room, was built at the rear of the house, on the site of the former detached kitchen. The latter structure had been demolished at an unknown date. The addition echoes the main block in both scale and material, and does not detract from the historic character of the property.

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 type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

On December 12, 1870, Joseph Hayne Rainey was sworn in as a member of the Forty-first Congress of the United States. This action was a milestone in the American political scene - Rainey was the first Black person to serve in the United States House of Representatives. This event marked the beginning of active black participation in the federal law making process and served as a prototype for today's Congressional Black Caucus. In addition, this event triggered a political revolution on the national scene that has culminated in women's suffrage, and female members of Congress.

Background

One of the most revolutionary aspects of "Reconstruction" was the participation by Blacks in the political arena. During this period, black people participated in politics to a greater extent than in any other period in American History. However, the black man in Reconstruction was confronted with the problem of identify which had vexed free Blacks like David Walker since long before the Civil War. Was the "Negro" a black man or an American? Could he be both? During Reconstruction black men strove to prove they could be both. Or, perhaps more accurately, to use the words of Dubois, "The Black man sought to attain self conscious 'manhood' by merging his double self into a truer and better self which combined the best elements of Americanism and negritude."

Unfortunately, the black man during reconstruction was in no position to take the initiative. Psychologically, he was at a disadvantage in that as a free man in an individualistic, competitive society he had to cope with a host of problems for which slavery had been poor preparation. Numerically, he was handicapped in that in most states he constituted only a minority of the population. By and large he had little education, which meant he was often bewildered in the world of law and contract, to say nothing of the feelings of inadequacy to which such ignorance gave rise. No black man occupied the heights of industry and finance nor enjoyed the political influence which such possession entailed. The political heights were more accessible, but even there, the summits remained safely out of reach.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

Zone	Eastng	Northng							

B

Zone	Eastng	Northng							

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cecil N. McKithan

organization National Park Service date June, 1983

street & number 75 Spring Street telephone 404-221-2641

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 date

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet 1

Item number

Page

Although black men possessed no means of taking the initiative, it is unwise to conclude then that they were merely pawns in a white power struggle. Blacks did have votes and those votes were important. In some areas of the South they were decisive. White politicians sought to cultivate, control, or in the case of some conservatives, neutralize those votes. This meant that Blacks had bargaining power. They could and did force concessions on matters of importance to them: education, civil rights, social reform, and economic development.

Furthermore, Blacks produced their own leadership which enabled them to make good use of what bargaining power they had. However, the limits of this bargaining power were shown more clearly in the Congress. Direct black influence was minimal largely because there was not much of it: two Senators and 20 Congressmen. Not all of these served in any one session - apparently the highest number of black Congressmen at any one time was seven, of a total of 292 members. Their direct influence was minimal also since few Northerners depended on black votes. Because Blacks were newcomers they had little seniority, and thus rarely attained positions of power on committees where the actual work of Congress is done. They were treated correctly but coldly by Republicans and with marked hostility by Democrats.

Two major problems preoccupied black legislators: education and civil rights. Realizing that federal aid was essential to provide sound school systems for the South, Black Congressmen proposed federal land grants to provide funds for schools. They had sound precedents: the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, providing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet 2

Item number

Page

a section in each township for support of schools; the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges. Their arguments fell on deaf ears as did those of white colleagues who proposed other ways of providing federal aid to Southern schools. Black Congressmen did influence the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1875 outlawing discrimination in transportation, theaters, restaurants, and hotels. It was poorly enforced and emasculated by the Supreme Court in 1883.

The interest of black Congressmen was not confined to these problems. Like white Congressmen anxious for reelection they fought to get federal funds for local improvements and to provide tariff protection for farmers and manufacturers. They tried to get fairer treatment for American Indians and to establish a national board of health. They also strove to eliminate racial discrimination in the army and to procure equal pensions for Civil War veterans without regard to race. If Black participation in Congress was to be viewed as an experiment, it was triumphantly successful. The black politicians who took seats in both Senate and House did not appear ignorant or helpless. They were, as a rule, studious, earnest, ambitious men, whose conduct - as illustrated by Joseph H. Rainey in the House of Representatives - would be honorable to any race.

Biography

Joseph Hayne Rainey was born June 21, 1832 at Georgetown, South Carolina. His parents were slaves but bought their freedom and became fairly prosperous. Rainey received some education through private instruction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet 3

Item number

Page

In 1846, the Rainey's moved to Charleston, South Carolina and established a successful tonsorial business. Rainey was still working in Charleston when the Civil War started and probably witnessed the attack on Fort Sumter. In 1861, he served as a steward on a Confederate blockade-runner. After he was drafted in 1862 to work on the Charleston fortifications he escaped to the West Indies. While in Bermuda, Rainey opened a barber shop and continued his education with the assistance of neighbors and friends who lent him their books.

After the close of the War he heard rumors of Black participation in politics. These rumors whetted his yearning to return to his home in Georgetown. In 1866, Rainey and his wife returned home and one year later launched his political career. In July 1867, he was appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Republican Party and in November was elected to represent Georgetown County at the Constitutional Convention in Charleston which met in January 1868. That year, Rainey was elected to the State Senate, where he served as Secretary of the State Finance Committee and as Deputy Marshal to take the census.

In December 1870, he resigned from the Senate to go to the United States House of Representatives, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the House's refusal to accept the credentials of B.F. Whittemore, thus becoming the first black American to become a member of the House. However, he took very little active part in this short session. He presented three petitions for the removal of political disabilities. During the Forty-second Congress, which met in March 1871, he became more active and on April 1 made a vigorous speech on legislation to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment. In the next session he made speeches for an appropriation to enforce the

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

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



Continuation sheet 4

Item number

Page

Ku Klux Act and in favor of amnesty if joined to civil rights. He presented ten petitions for the passage of the Civil Rights Bill and proposed a bill for complete removal of all political disabilities.

In the third and final session of this Congress, Rainey introduced a bill to establish an American line of steamships for direct trade with Haiti and for carrying mails there. However, no action was taken on this. In the Forty-third Congress he was appointed to the Indian Affairs and Freedmen's Affairs Committees. Rainey displayed another phase of his interests when he made a plea for the support of Forts Moultrie and Sumter because of their historical associations. The South, in his view, had been neglected in appropriations. In like vein was his defense of the Chinese in California. During this session Rainey received a special honor which no contemporary of his race enjoyed. While the Indian Bill was under discussion, he was called to the Chair to preside over the House.

The Forty-fourth Congress was Democratic in the House, but Rainey was treated well in Committee assignments. He was a member of the Special Centennial Committee besides regular membership on the Invalid Pensions and Freedmen's Bank Committees. During the last days of Reconstruction, he spoke in defense of the policy that had been pursued in the South, even the use of Federal troops at the polls in South Carolina. Throughout his Congressional career Rainey, in common with other Black Congressmen, adhered first of all to his party and then to the interests of his constituents.

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

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



Continuation sheet 5 Item number _____ Page _____

In 1878, Rainey, seeking his fifth term, was defeated and retired from political life. From 1878 to 1881, he served as an internal revenue agent for the United States Treasury Department in South Carolina. He then engaged in a banking and brokerage business in Washington, D.C. In 1886, he returned to his home in Georgetown and lived in obscurity until his death on August 2, 1887.

CONCLUSION

The election of Joseph H. Rainey to the U. S. House of Representatives was a progressive expansion of the meaning of liberty for Blacks. Yet, an irony of the post-Reconstruction history of Blacks is that the very political freedom under which other liberties were early nurtured could not sustain itself in a period in which those liberties continued to grow. Black losses in the political realm were largely the result of the effectiveness of the Redeemer campaigns in vilifying Republicanism. In time, Northerners accepted the Southern argument as it applied to the South and found in it a certain measure of relief from a sense of guilt for their apostasy. The results were unique; the men who had lost the war had won the peace.

Yet, the precedent set by Rainey continued uninterrupted until 1901. The presence of Joseph Rainey in the House symbolized the entry of black people into the national political scene. With the exception of the period from 1901 to 1927, Blacks have continued to

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

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



Continuation sheet

6

Item number

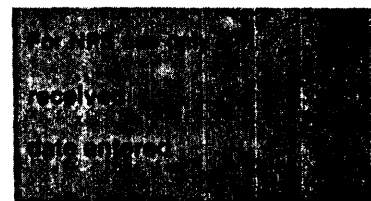
Page

be a part of the Federal law making process. A list of distinguished Black members would include such persons as Shirley Chisholm, Andrew Young, Adam Clayton Powell, Ron Dellums, Harold Washington, Edward Brooke, and Barbara Jordan.

Finally, Rainey's election to Congress signalled an unannounced political revolution in the Federal Law making process in this country. Congress was destined to never be all white nor all male ever again.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property butts and bounds to the north on Prince Street whereon it measures 100 feet, to the east on lot #56 whereon it measures 209.9 feet to the south on the property of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Georgetown whereon it measures 100 feet, and to the west on lot #54 whereon it measures 217.9 feet.

Approximate 1/2 acre.