

# **The Slave Quarters**

**Redcliffe Plantation  
State Historic Site**

**Beech Island, South Carolina**



**Historic Structures Report  
July 2002**

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# Introduction

This historic structures report was undertaken in cooperation with the South Carolina State Park Service, a unit of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, to provide a basic management tool for the operation of the Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site. Located in Aiken County, Redcliffe was the showplace plantation of James Henry Hammond, a wealthy and prominent South Carolinian who served as both the state's governor (1842-1844) and United States senator (1858-1860). This report focuses on the two extant slave cabins at Redcliffe (four were originally built between 1857-1859). For the purposes of this report, these structures are referred to as the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage.<sup>1</sup>

This report will assist with site management at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site in several ways. In focusing on the former slave cabins, the report supports Park Service efforts to broaden the interpretation of African-American history at the site. As the only slave cabins currently in the state park system of South Carolina, the structures at Redcliffe have enormous interpretive and educational possibilities. In addition, the historical, architectural, and structural sections of the report provide a useful "snapshot" of the two buildings in the year 2002.

The purpose of a historic structures report is to document the previous history of a structure, analyze its original appearance, and assess its current condition, in order to make informed decisions about maintenance priorities and immediate rehabilitation needs. The report helps site managers understand which features are historic and which are not historic, so that they can plan appropriate treatment, preservation, and interpretive strategies. Ideally a historic structures report should be a "working document," a management tool that is subject to change

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<sup>1</sup>The State Park Service facility identification numbers are RC-27 (for the Slave Quarters) and RC-61 (for the Slave Quarters/Garage).

and regular update.

The first section of the report, the Historical Narrative, pulls together information on Redcliffe, the four generations who owned the plantation, and the people who lived in or used the two cabins. Information was gathered from a variety of published and unpublished sources at the South Caroliniana Library, the South Carolina State Archives, and the files of the South Carolina State Park Service in Columbia and at Redcliffe. The focus here and throughout the report is on the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage, rather than the great house or other outbuildings. The Narrative of Architectural Evolution describes the original appearance of the two slave cabins and how each building has changed over time, based on research in the documentary record and analysis of the structures themselves. The Assessment of Existing Conditions describes the current exterior and interior of both structures. The Materials Analysis assesses the composition of original mortar and stucco for purposes of future repair. A section of Recommendations is followed by a Bibliography listing sources in history and architectural history, technical information, and related studies of slave and tenant housing. The Appendix contains miscellaneous historic documents, technical reports, miscellaneous historic photographs, drawings, and photography logs.

The research, photography, and production of the final report were undertaken by Renee Ballard, Jana Bean, M. Amanda Lee, Lee McAbee, and Barbara Stokes. All are graduate students in the Department of History at the University of South Carolina who enrolled in History 712, "Historic Preservation Practicum," in the Spring 2002 semester. The project was coordinated by Dr. Robert R. Weyeneth, Professor of History and Co-Director of the Public History Program; Fielding Freed, Park Manager at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site; and Albert Hester, Historian at the South Carolina State Park Service. Copies of the final report are located at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site, the Columbia offices of the South Carolina State Park Service, the South Caroliniana Library, and at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

# Historical Narrative

## The Slave Quarters in the Context of the Historic Outbuildings at Redcliffe

Redcliffe Plantation, managed by the South Carolina State Park Service since 1975 as a State Historic Site, was completed in 1859. Designed to be an estate for relaxation, entertainment, agricultural experimentation, and an emblem of the owner's status as a Southern planter, Redcliffe was the home of James Henry Hammond, former South Carolina governor and United States senator, as well as three generations of his descendants.

Encompassing nearly 400 acres, Redcliffe's original grounds included the Greek Revival family home, four slave quarters, a freestanding kitchen and garden, an ash house, a windmill, a wine cellar, a stable, and other outbuildings.<sup>2</sup> To the west of the big house stood the home of Dr. Milledge Galphin, the former property owner.<sup>3</sup> This structure, referred to as The Old Yard, was home to Hammond from 1855 until the completion of Redcliffe.

Over the years, the supporting structures around the big house came and went. Originally, four slave quarters were located north of the main home. They were set at right angles to each other and accommodated eight families (or sixteen house servants).<sup>4</sup> Of the four cabins, two remain. On the north side of the big house, one slave quarters retains its original configuration. The other slave quarters, located to the northeast of the main house, was transformed into a

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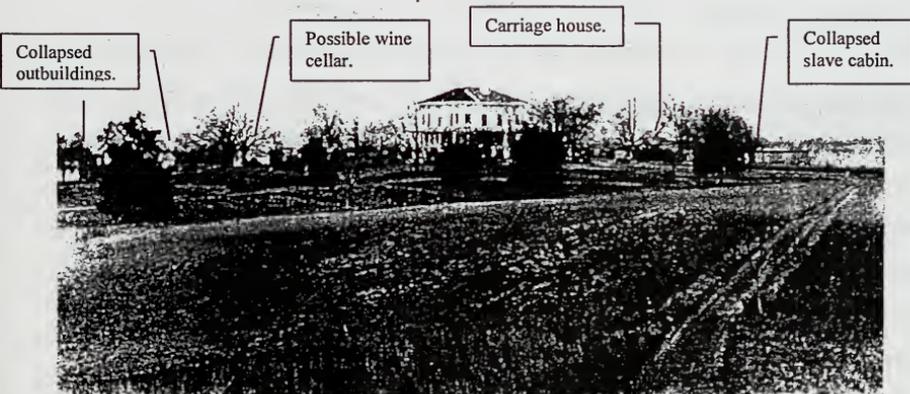
<sup>2</sup>The Greek Revival architectural style was popular in the mid-19th century and was characterized by monumental classical orders, symmetry of form, balanced fenestration, and elaborately detailed entrances. Stylistic features of Greek Revival present at Redcliffe include the hipped roof, frieze-band windows, pedimented windows, corner pilasters, an entry surround with a full transom and sidelights, villa form, and pronounced cornice line. The house as originally built actually had a transitional Greek Revival-Italianate character.

<sup>3</sup>In 1855, Hammond purchased 400 acres of land in Edgefield District near the settlement of Beech Island from Dr. Milledge Galphin. It was six miles north of Hammond's Silver Bluff Plantation, which he had gained through his marriage to Catherine Fitzsimmons in 1831.

<sup>4</sup>John Shaw Billings, "Some Notes on the History of Redcliffe," July 1963, South Caroliniana Library (SCL). We believe that Billings's statements about how many people lived in the slave quarters is correct because slave housing tended to be rather small and comparable to folk housing for poor whites. Having two families living within one saddlebag structure was possible. The primary functions of slave quarters were sleeping and storage as work associated with daily living was conducted outdoors. Consequently, large structures for work and living space were seldom provided.

carriage house at the turn of the century, then into a garage in the 1930s. A third cabin was destroyed by fire, and a fourth was torn down due to deterioration.

The Old Yard was destroyed by fire in 1917.<sup>9</sup> Henry Cumming Hammond added an L-shaped stable in 1908, with the open side of the "L" fenced in. Its roof drained into a large cistern in the rear of the building. In 1937, one of the wings of the stable was torn down, which reduced the stable to the current form. A windmill stood near the stable over a well and operated from 1901 to 1910.



Photograph of Redcliffe Plantation, northwest elevation of grounds and buildings, c. 1908. Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

The kitchen was located near the present-day fire hydrant and was razed in 1935 when it was no longer needed. A flower and vegetable garden flourished near the present-day boilerhouse. Other outbuildings at Redcliffe included an ash house, which stood four feet tall by two to three feet wide and four feet long, and was located west of the kitchen. Its potash was used for fertilizer.

<sup>9</sup>Information for the following discussion of the outbuildings was drawn from an interview with Dr. Emily Hammond Wilson Walker on 24 November 1997 and Billings, "Some Notes on the History of Redcliffe." A typescript of the Walker interview is located in the historical files at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site.

On the west side of the house, James Henry Hammond dug a wine cellar to support his vineyard experiments. While we do not know the function of the wine cellar in the decades following James Henry Hammond's death, John Shaw Billings used it for refuse accumulated during the 1935-1936 renovations. The wine cellar caught fire in 1937 and was filled with dirt in 1940.<sup>6</sup> Other minor structures, such as privies, barn, corn crib, and fencing for animals and gardens, were built and later torn down. Today the centerpiece of the site continues to be the big house, which operates as a historic house museum. It is flanked by the Slave Quarters/Garage, the Slave Quarters, and the stable. In the following discussion of the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage, the narrative is divided into the periods in which individual family members owned the plantation.

#### **The Management of James Henry Hammond and the Period of Slavery, c. 1855-1864**

While the exact date of the construction of the four slave quarters has not been pinpointed, it is clear that soon after Hammond's closing on Redcliffe on 2 April 1855, slaves were present on the property. In the Plantation Book on 7 July 1855, Hammond's overseer recorded that he sent "Robert" to Redcliffe. A further remark by the overseer in August 1855 indicates he sent 54 pounds of beef to Redcliffe and received 17 hams from Redcliffe the following month.<sup>7</sup> Consequently, slaves must have been on the property in 1855, and they must have had some sort of shelter. Whether or not they lived in these four slave quarters or in other pre-existing structures connected with The Old Yard is uncertain.

Evidence that some kind of slave dwellings may have existed on the property in 1855 comes from Hammond's Memorandum Book, in which he wrote on 16 May 1855 that he was "commencing at highest point in D.I. Galphus field." He does not say what he was commencing,

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<sup>6</sup>John Shaw Billings, John Shaw Billings Diaries, Vol. 17, 24-28 October 1940, SCL.

<sup>7</sup>James Henry Hammond, James Henry Hammond Plantation Book, 1849-1858, SCL (Reproduced in *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations* microfilm collection, Roll R1068N).

but lists several structures, including a "corner negro house," as if to give landmarks for the building that was taking place in the field.<sup>8</sup>

The four slave quarters could have been built as early as 1857. On 5 January 1857, Hammond wrote that he was at Redcliffe, "setting out trees and vines and training arbor...laid off spot for house and outhouses."<sup>9</sup> By the next week, he noted that Alfred was making the pillars for the kitchen and had begun house building, "with one outhouse nearly framed last week."<sup>10</sup> We know for certain that the slave quarters were built no later than 1859. In Hammond's papers is an 1859 receipt from Pompey & Company, Hammond's principal building contractor, for shingles "delivered for negro houses."<sup>11</sup>

From Hammond's writings on slave management, we get some idea of the appearance of the slave quarters on his plantations in general. In the Plantation Book for 1857-1858, Hammond wrote, "adjoining each negro house is a piece of ground convenient for a fowl yard and garden." Hammond was fanatical about cleanliness and sanitation and wrote that the houses would be given a thorough spring cleaning and that the "houses [were] whitewashed once a year in and out."<sup>12</sup> Whether the slave quarters at Redcliffe were used by slave families or house servants is unclear, but the tax list for Edgefield District showed twenty-one slaves at Redcliffe Plantation in October 1864.<sup>13</sup>

Civil War battles raged all around Redcliffe, but the estate was not directly affected by any

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<sup>8</sup>James Henry Hammond, James Henry Hammond Memorandum Book, 1855, SCL (*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations*, Roll R1068E).

<sup>9</sup>James Henry Hammond, James Henry Hammond Silver Bluff, Cathwood, Cowden and Redcliffe Plantation Records, 11 January 1856 - 22 August 1887, SCL.

<sup>10</sup>James Henry Hammond, James Henry Hammond Plantation Records #2, 6 January 1857, SCL (*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations*, Roll R1068N).

<sup>11</sup>James Henry Hammond, James Henry Hammond Lumber and Canal Records, 1854-1859, SCL (*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations*, Roll R1068E).

<sup>12</sup>James Henry Hammond, James Henry Hammond Plantation Book, 1857-1858, SCL (*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations*, Roll R1068N under subtitles "negro patches" and "cleaning up," respectively).

<sup>13</sup>Because Redcliffe was a showplace plantation, Hammond's slaves, who were mainly house servants, were fairly well cared for. This included their housing. Also the late date of antebellum construction meant that sawn timber was used, producing a better quality building than earlier forms of construction. Typical slave dwellings were log and earthfast (post-and-beam) construction, with dirt floors, mud-and-stick chimneys, open windows (no glass), and wattle-and-daub walls (sticks with mud chinking).

of the fighting. However, Hammond was required to contribute slaves, crops, farm animals, and money to the Southern cause, to his constant dismay. U.S. General William T. Sherman, on his march to the sea in 1864, left Atlanta three days after James Henry Hammond died. Sherman's soldiers only came within fourteen miles of Redcliffe.<sup>14</sup>

Hammond's eldest son, James Henry (Harry) Hammond II, who had overseen the construction of Redcliffe, as well as its continued maintenance while his father was a United States senator, found a way to keep most of the Hammond lands in the hands of family after his father's death. Harry developed a plan that divided up and sold his father's lands in pieces by sealed bid to family members. Redcliffe and the nearly 400 acres surrounding the house were purchased by Hammond's widow, Catherine, for \$8,000.<sup>15</sup>

### **The Management of Catherine Fitzsimmons Hammond, 1864-1873**

No evidence exists to indicate that any major changes were made to the structures during the period when Catherine Fitzsimmons Hammond owned the property. Although the relationship between landowner and the former slaves presented a major challenge, most of Hammond's former slaves remained at Redcliffe and other Hammond properties following the Civil War.<sup>16</sup> According to records left by Henry Cumming Hammond, Catherine's grandson, the family struggled with the issue of how to retain their workers and still pay them. The former slaves wrestled with keeping body and soul together under the new circumstances. Henry Cumming Hammond recorded that "an old negro proposed a deal" that Harry Hammond accepted: "Each worker was to get \$15 cash at the end of the crop year. He was to have house, water, firewood. He was to get free rations: three pounds of bacon meat and a peck of meal each week. He was to have every other Saturday off and the loan of a mule and plow to work his own crop. No

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<sup>14</sup>Drew Gilpin Faust, *James Henry Hammond and the Old South: A Design for Mastery* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), 1-2.

<sup>15</sup>Carol Bleser, ed., *The Hammonds of Redcliffe* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), 137.

<sup>16</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, 136.

allowance was made for clothes - no allowance for non-worker. This arrangement became the basis of the new plantation economy for years to come."<sup>17</sup> It is likely that during this period other tenant housing was constructed around the 400 acres of Redcliffe.

In 1873 Harry purchased Redcliffe from his mother for \$8,000: \$3,000 in cash and \$5,000 charged against his inheritance.<sup>18</sup> Catherine Hammond then moved to The Old Yard, which according to old photographs was located somewhere near the present Park Manager's home. Catherine lived there until she died in 1896.

### **The Management of Harry Hammond and Emily Cumming Hammond, 1873-1911**

Harry found running Redcliffe financially challenging after the war. His father had invested heavily in the Confederacy and left his family little more than his land. Even with the high costs of running a plantation, depressed crop prices, and disastrous weather, Harry managed to maintain the property, largely due to hard work and infusions of capital from various sources, including his in-laws.<sup>19</sup> In fact, by way of furnishings and finances, Redcliffe was transformed to a Cumming house during this period. When Catherine moved to The Old Yard, she took much of the Hammond furniture with her. Emily Cumming Hammond furnished Redcliffe with furniture from her family home and also received money from her mother to purchase Redcliffe from Catherine.<sup>20</sup> The deed was eventually put in Emily's name, not Harry Hammond's.

The largest source of evidence during this period is photographs that show the transformation of structures and the addition or first record of other outbuildings or fencing. Harry had added a large shed to what had become known as the carriage house by 1897, and by 1911 it had been expanded to include sheds on both sides.<sup>21</sup> The other cabins were probably used for

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<sup>17</sup>John Shaw Billings, "Some More Family Facts," John Shaw Billings Scrapbook Collection 67, 1955, SCL.

<sup>18</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, 138.

<sup>19</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, 136 - 139.

<sup>20</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, 170, note 1.

<sup>21</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, "Letter from Harry Hammond to Katharine H. Billings from Beech Island, 10 October 1897," 320.

tenants, house servants, and/or storage.

Emily Cumming Hammond died in 1911 and Harry died in 1916. When Emily died, the estate went to their five children, but Julia Hammond Richards and her brother Henry Hammond bought out the interests of the other three heirs, thereby becoming the joint owners of Redcliffe.<sup>22</sup> Julia married James Richards at Redcliffe three weeks after her mother's funeral. Caring for her father until his death, Julia and James continued to live at Redcliffe from 1911 to 1935 and were responsible for the maintenance of the house, outbuildings, and grounds.

### **The Management of Julia Hammond Richards and James Richards, 1911-1935**

James Richards was apparently a poor businessman and lost most of Julia's inheritance through bad investments. Due to the financial position of the Richards, it is doubtful that any renovations or changes to any of the slave quarters was undertaken during this period. In fact, by the 1920s Julia and James were making a living by selling milk, eggs, and vegetables.<sup>23</sup>

James Richards died in 1934 and Julia died a year later. At the time of Julia's death, her brother Henry contacted their nephews, John Shaw Billings and James Henry Hammond Billings, about purchasing Redcliffe.<sup>24</sup> John Shaw Billings bought Redcliffe in March 1935 for \$15,000 and maintained it as a vacation home until his retirement from Time Inc. He and his wife, Frederica Washburn Wade Billings, made Redcliffe their primary residence in 1954.

### **The Management of John Shaw Billings, 1935-1975**

Due to the disrepair of all of the Redcliffe buildings, extensive renovations to the property were made by John Shaw Billings in the immediate years after he bought the estate in 1935.<sup>25</sup> By this time, two of the original four slave quarters were no longer standing. The one to the north of

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<sup>22</sup>Billings, "Some Notes on the History of Redcliffe," July 1963, SCL.

<sup>23</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, 307.

<sup>24</sup>Bleser, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*, 310.

<sup>25</sup>The description of the 1935-1936 renovations is drawn from the following letters with Billings's instructions to John Mobley and Harry Hammond: John Shaw Billings to John Mobley, 12 August 1936, Billings Letters, Folder 126, 3 - 18 August 1936, SCL; Billings to Henry Hammond, 7 August 1935, Billings Letters, Folder 98, 20 July - 7 August 1935, SCL.

the carriage house collapsed in 1935, and the other had burned sometime after 1916.

Billings understood the value of preserving the two remaining slave quarters. In letters to his Uncle Henry and his contractor, John Mobley, during this period he wrote, "remember their age is their chief sentimental value," and "these two identical white houses... are historically contemporaneous with Redcliffe and as didactic as anything in the original layout." But Billings was also a practical man and he told Mobley in the same letter that he was more interested in the outside appearances of the houses than the inside.

In 1935, Billings made a number of changes in the back yard of Redcliffe. The former Slave Quarters was renovated as a servants' house. It received a new tin roof, which was painted grey to match the big house's roof; a new chimney with a double fireplace; a few new sills; a fresh coat of white paint on the exterior; a new floor; and brick work to strengthen the foundations where needed.

The Slave Quarters/Garage, which up to this point had been a carriage house with sheds on both sides, was converted to a garage. Both sheds were torn down; double-sliding front doors were installed on the south elevation; a portion of the floor was removed and a concrete slab put in its place; a new roof was added and painted grey; and the exterior was painted white. A separate room was constructed within the garage on the north end as an apartment for a chauffeur. A lean-to, using old tin taken off the roof of the demolished buildings, was built behind the garage (north elevation) to cover the woodpile. Again, Billings was practical: "I want this woodshed substantial, but as cheap and plain as possible."

The kitchen and outhouse were torn down, and the grounds generally graded and filled. Good wood retained from the levelling was stored in "the old slave house."<sup>26</sup>

There was at least one person using the Slave Quarters at the time of the renovations in 1935: a Mr. Simkins, who was using them for storage purposes. Billings gave Simkins two weeks'

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<sup>26</sup>Billings Diaries, Vol. 12, p. 38, 16 July 1935; p. 108, 4 October 1935; p. 112, 7 October 1935, SCL.

notice on 12 August 1936 to vacate and remove "his things from these two outhouses."<sup>27</sup> Simkins had kept livestock on the grounds, planted peanuts in the field, and stored hay in the stables and tools and other items in the outbuildings.

How the room in the north end of the garage was actually used remains unclear. Billings had authorized building a separate room within the garage in 1936, supposedly for a chauffeur's quarters. But in October 1940 he wrote in his diary that "William (the chauffeur) refuses to move into the room I had fixed for him in the basement at Redcliffe," and Billings instructed Harry and William to go to town to buy a stove and brick for the chimney.<sup>28</sup> Why Billings would have preferred that William move into the basement after having the room built in the garage remains a mystery.

New wiring also was completed on the Slave Quarters/Garage at this time. As far as can be determined, the Slave Quarters was not wired for electricity until 1956.<sup>29</sup>

In 1954, Billings retired from Time Inc., and he and his wife Frederica moved to Redcliffe to live full-time. With no heirs, John Shaw Billings donated Redcliffe to the State of South Carolina in 1973, with the formal transfer to take place upon his death. Billings established a smooth transition of Redcliffe's care when he hired Gene Cobb as a caretaker in the early 1970s. Cobb remained as Park Superintendent when the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism took over the property upon Billings's death on 25 August 1975, retaining that position until 1998.

### **The Management of the South Carolina State Park Service, 1975-Present**

The objective of the South Carolina State Park Service in managing Redcliffe has been to rehabilitate and maintain the structures, making them accessible through repair or alterations, while preserving the architectural features that convey important historical interpretive values. Since 1975, the Park Service has repaired, repainted, and performed standard maintenance on

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<sup>27</sup>John Shaw Billings to Leroy H. Simkins. Billings Letters, Folder 130, 30 October 1936, SCL.

<sup>28</sup>Billings Diaries, Vol. 17, 22 October 1940, SCL.

<sup>29</sup>Billings Diaries, Vol. 41, 5 - 16 June 1956, SCL.

the Slave Quarters and Slave Quarters/Garage. The Slave Quarters is open to the public. At present, the Slave Quarters/Garage is not open to the public.

As of 2002, the Park Service is debating the appropriate treatment and interpretive strategy for both the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage.

## Narrative of Architectural Evolution

This section details the original appearance of both the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage, based on architectural evidence of both structures, as well as photographs and written source material.<sup>30</sup> Following the description of each structure is a discussion of its alterations, organized chronologically.

### **Slave Quarters (RC-27)**

#### *Original Appearance - Exterior*

Originally both the Slave Quarters and Slave Quarters/Garage were identical in plan, scale, and structure, each housing two families. Each consisted of two rooms with a chimney block between, creating a form commonly known as a saddle-bag house. Both had identical braced-frame structures with heavy sills all around, diagonally braced corner posts, and diagonally braced posts in the center of the long sides. A smaller top sill was found on the walls and a false sill rested on ceiling joists. Carved shims allowed a wider fascia on the outside. Originally, both buildings had the same window and door openings, though now these can only be seen on the Slave Quarters: two doors on the main facade, two windows on the opposing facade and one window at each end of the building. The rear sill of the Slave Quarters was continuous and hewn. The joists were made of straight sawn lumber.

#### *Original Appearance - Interior*

Originally the interior walls were open, with the clapboards exposed and whitewashed. Remnants of the whitewash can still be seen on exposed portions of the center and corner posts.

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<sup>30</sup> The narrative on the original appearances of both structures is taken from a report by Dr. Mark Reinberger, University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, "Redcliffe Slave Quarters and Miscellaneous Observations on the Main House," 19 January 1998.

## *Periods of Alterations*<sup>31</sup>

1935 - 1937



Slave Quarters, south elevation, July 1935. Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

During this period, the Slave Quarters received a new roof, which replaced the wood shingles and matched that of the big house in materials (Slusky's 20-lb. tin) and color (one coat of grey). A new floor was laid over the old, "principally to keep out drafts."<sup>32</sup> It consisted of "good dressed old flooring" that was purchased for \$32.<sup>33</sup> Brick around the foundation piers was repaired as needed. A new chimney with a double fireplace was installed and

a plank partition on each side of the chimney is to divide this house into two rooms, with a plain batten door between. Two batten doors were put on the front, with slips (just treads, not risers) and batten shutters were put on the windows, but no glass.<sup>34</sup>

Beaded tongue-and-groove paneling was added to the walls and ceiling of the west room in 1937, and the east room was panelled in 1946.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>31</sup>Alterations are noted in various sources but some are vague with regard to exact locations, materials, and persons who did the work.

<sup>32</sup>John Shaw Billings to John Mobley, Billings Letters, 12 August 1936, Folder 126, SCL.

<sup>33</sup>John Mobley to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 13 September 1936, Folder 128, SCL.

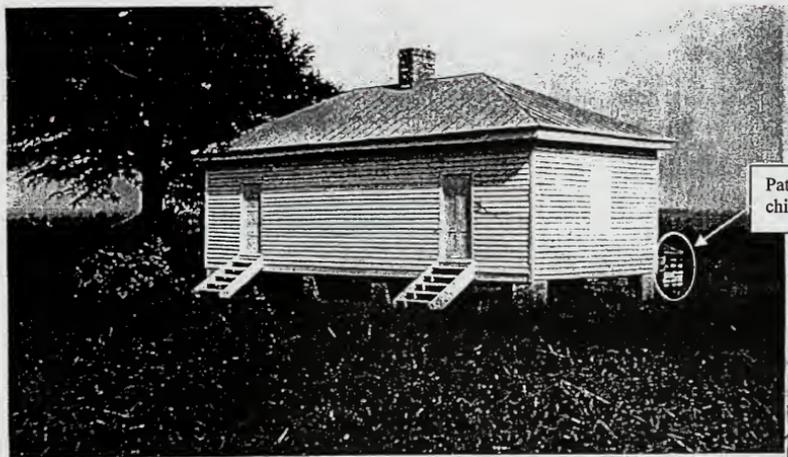
<sup>34</sup>John Shaw Billings to John Mobley, Billings Letters, 12 August 1936, Folder 126, SCL.

<sup>35</sup>Harry Hammond to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 4 December 1937, Folder 153, SCL; Harry Hammond to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 20 July 1946, Folder 209, SCL.

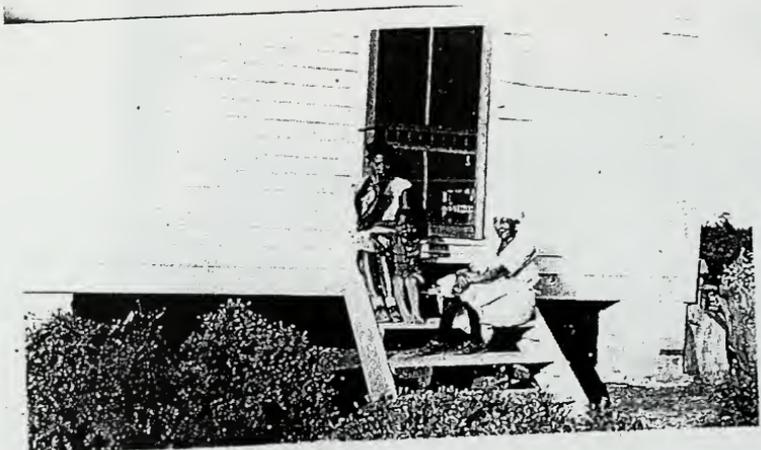




Slave Quarters, south elevation, September 1936. Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters, southeast oblique, October 1936. *This is one of four original slave houses at Redcliffe. Each held two families of house servants. Two of the houses have been demolished. The third is now the garage. The fourth one was rotting down when I had it restored and repaired, with new chimney and double fire places and a copper steel roof to match Redcliffe's.* Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library. Note: on this and subsequent photographs, the original scrapbook captions are italicized.



Slave Quarters, south elevation, 1937. *Slave house, Jim's Wife, Jim's Junior, Mamie.* Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

#### 1940s

The Slave Quarters was painted in 1944. In 1946, beaded tongue-and-groove paneling was added to the walls and ceiling of the east room. Two years later, the roof was painted dark grey and the exterior walls were painted white.<sup>36</sup>

#### 1950s - 1960s

The Slave Quarters was wired for electricity in 1956, and a privy was erected.<sup>37</sup> The roof was painted white in 1957 and 1962 by the same people who had been painting Redcliffe since the 1936 restoration.<sup>38</sup>

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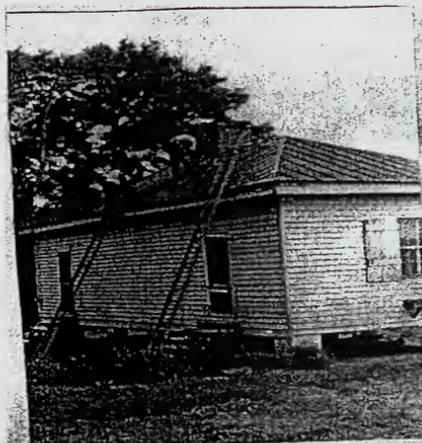
<sup>36</sup>Harry Hammond to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 4 April 1944, Folder 257, SCL; Harry Hammond to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 15 July 1948, Folder 312, SCL.

<sup>37</sup>Billings Diaries, Vol. 41, 2-16 June 1956, SCL.

<sup>38</sup>Billings Scrapbook Collection 68, 1954-1958, SCL.



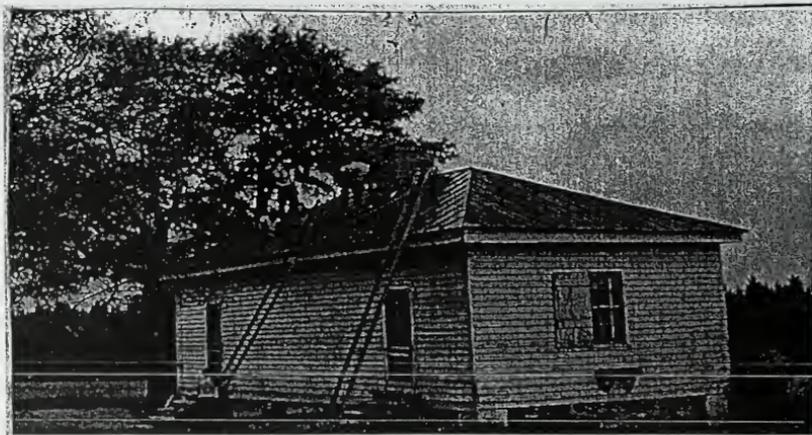
Slave Quarters, southeast oblique, c.1957. *"Mamie's house" in Yard—empty since May 1954.* Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #35, 1952-1957. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters, southeast oblique, 1 May 1957. *Lee and gang paint roof of Yard House.* Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #35, 1952-1957. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters, south elevation, 1 May 1957. *More painting on Old Slave House. Here now live Dennis' daughter Sarah and her husband James Burns.* Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #35, 1952-1957. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters, southeast oblique, 1 May 1957. *More painting on Old Slave House roof.* Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #35, 1953-1957. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

## 1970s

When Gene Cobb started working at Redcliffe in 1972, the Slave Quarters had cement steps, which were later removed. In 1975, the power was disconnected from the structure. The roof was painted three to four times, about every four years. General repairs to the structure took place in 1978 and 1979. During this period, Cobb built wooden steps to the Slave Quarters, which were replaced two other times during his years at Redcliffe.<sup>39</sup>

According to a State Park Service interoffice memo dated 2 August 1978, Mike Foley requested repair supplies, which included Camco Sealer and paint for outbuildings (three gallons of each to start with) and lumber to repair the floor and replace rotten boards in the outbuildings.<sup>40</sup>

## 1980 - Present

In 1986 and 1987 the staff replaced the corner boards because, according to Gene Cobb, they were sagging and the seam was coming apart. The repair consisted of jacking up the corner and then repairing the seam. Staff also repainted the structure, replaced both sets of steps, and repaired some of the brick pillars. In 1988, they also replaced the corner boards, installed handrails on the steps, and repainted the tin roof. In 1990 the roof was repainted and in 1996 the exterior was repainted, using Sherwin Williams 20-year Super Paint, exterior latex satin. The primer used was SW-A-100 oil primer, and the colors were Sherwin Williams White 2123 and Rusty Red 2719 for the roof.<sup>41</sup> In 1999, new locks and brackets were installed.

In January 2000 the Redcliffe staff repaired a crack in the exterior face of the northwest elevation shutter with "Wood Epoxy." In May 2001, work was completed on a new set of freestanding steps with handrail, which allowed public access to the Slave Quarters. Also that month, park personnel replaced the second set of stairs with a set modeled after those shown in

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<sup>39</sup>Gene Cobb, Interviewed by Lee McAbee, 25 March 2002.

<sup>40</sup>Mike Foley to Ray M. Sisk, 2 August 1978, PRT interoffice memo, PRT files. According to Gene Cobb, Camco was a brand of paint made in South Carolina that was a two-step process. The first step was the sealer and the second was the paint itself. It was used to paint brick.

<sup>41</sup>Marta Thacker, History Notes on Redcliffe, Construction, Maintenance, Alterations of Hammond Properties. Located in the files of the South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

the photo of the structure after the 1935 renovation. The second set is for appearance only and is not utilized for public access. In September 2001 some rotted floor boards were replaced in the Slave Quarters using "nailers" removed from the chauffeur's quarters in the Slave Quarters/Garage. These boards were of the same grain and tongue-in-groove construction as the Slave Quarters' flooring. They used about five planks totaling no more than ten board feet. In addition, the old breaker box was removed in 2001 with wire left to mark the place.<sup>42</sup>

## **Slave Quarters/Garage (RC-61)**

### ***Original Appearance - Exterior***

Originally both the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage were identical in plan, scale, and structure, each housing two families. Each consisted of two rooms with a chimney block between, creating a form commonly known as a saddle-bag house. Both had identical braced-frame structures with heavy sills all around, diagonally braced corner posts, and diagonally braced posts in the center of the long sides. A smaller top sill was found on the walls and a false sill rested on ceiling joists. Carved shims allowed a wider fascia on the outside. Originally, both buildings had the same window and door openings, though now these can only be seen on the Slave Quarters.

Although some of the original windows and doors were changed on the Slave Quarters/Garage, the original size and location of all openings can be seen both inside and outside the structure, confirming that it was originally identical to the Slave Quarters.

### ***Original Appearance - Interior***

A central chimney existed, and the original size and location of all openings can be seen both inside and outside the structure, confirming that it was originally identical to the Slave Quarters. (Today, the center rafter in the structure is "hanging," leaving a two- to three-foot section cut out of it in the middle where the central fireplace would have been.) The Slave

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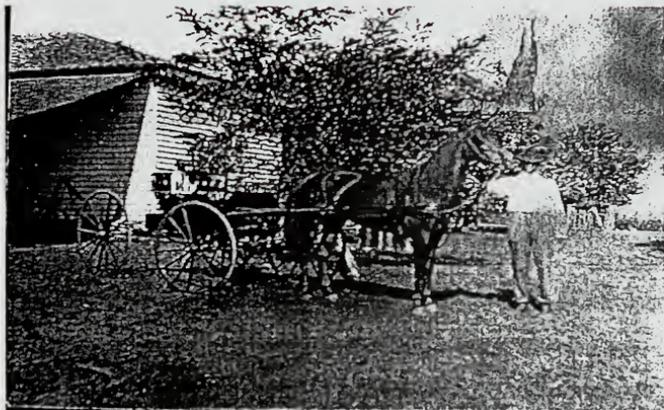
<sup>42</sup>Fielding Freed, Interviewed by Lee McAbee, 18 March 2002.

Quarters/Garage retains its exposed clapboards, with whitewash still visible on the interior.

### *Periods of Alterations*

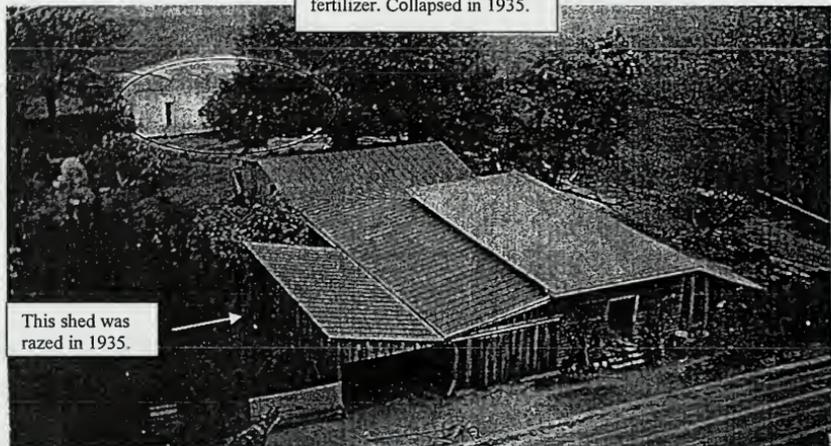
#### **Late 1800s Conversion to a carriage house**

Photographic evidence indicates that sometime between 1874 and 1897, the Slave Quarters/Garage was transformed into a carriage house. Harry Hammond added a large shed to the west elevation of the carriage house by 1897, which by 1911 had been expanded to include sheds on the north and east elevations. In addition, a window on the south elevation was enlarged to almost double its original size in order to create a doorway with an earthen ramp leading up to it.



Slave Quarters/Garage, northeast oblique, c.1900. *H.C. Hammond's team, Redcliffe, S.C.*  
Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #3, 1875-1912. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

Old slave house used for  
fertilizer. Collapsed in 1935.



Slave Quarters/Garage, south elevation, 1911. Outbuilding in Redcliffe near yard. The carriage house originally a slave house. Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

### 1935-1936 Conversion to a garage

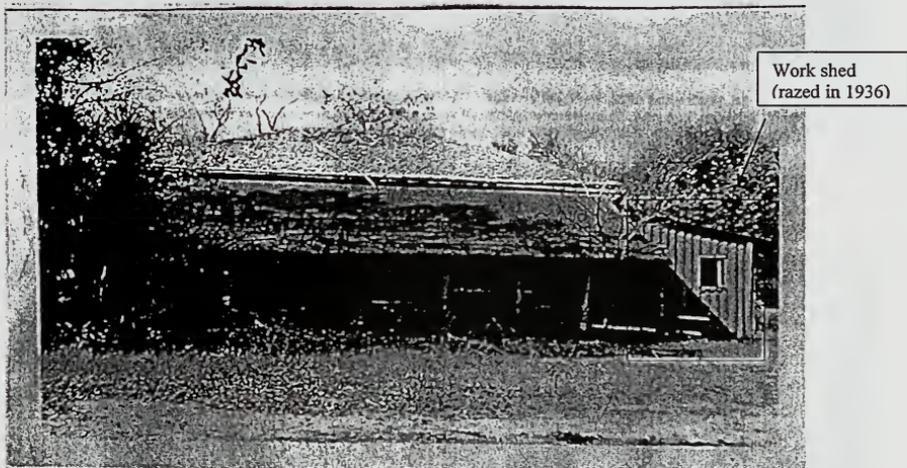
In 1936, all sheds around the carriage house were torn down and the structure was converted to a garage with a separate room in the rear. The two sections were connected by a plain door. The separate room was finished off with Celotex, a type of drywall. A new concrete foundation was poured between the original piers of the garage section and its old wood floor was removed. The foundation as well as the remaining piers (under the room on the north end of the structure) can still be seen. A tin roof replaced wood shingles.

Windows and doors - In the garage section, the south elevation was entirely removed and a new wall, supported by a truss, topped the garage door. Double-sliding front doors were installed, and the west window in the separate room was made into an outside door with a step. In the room section, the north elevation window was covered up. An outside door and step opened off this room to the west. The two east windows of this building were to have sashes and glass.

Billings had ordered his builders to "make these windows like those in the pump house - no cords, no weights."<sup>43</sup>

Electricity - Lines were strung from the main house to the garage, with an outside fixture over the garage door (south elevation). The light inside the garage was a porcelain receptacle, and the light in the rear room was a drop cord.

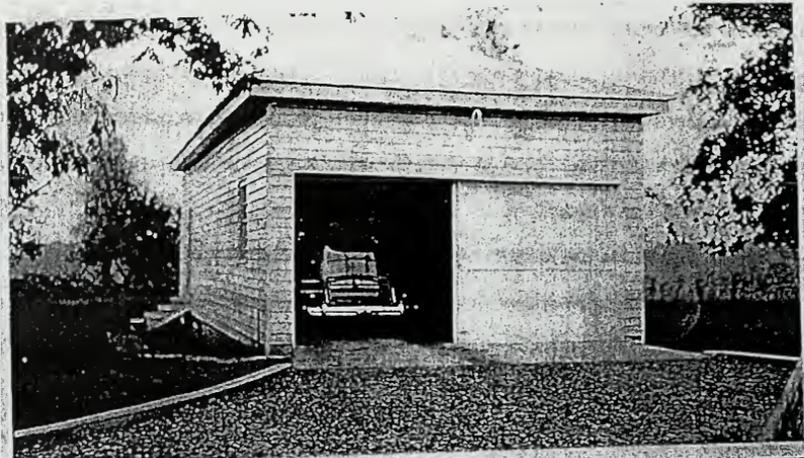
Other - A lean-to was added to the north elevation to cover the woodpile. Billings instructed that the roof of the lean-to should be covered with some of the old tin taken off the roof of the shed that was torn down. He wanted it substantial, but "as cheap and plain as possible."<sup>44</sup>



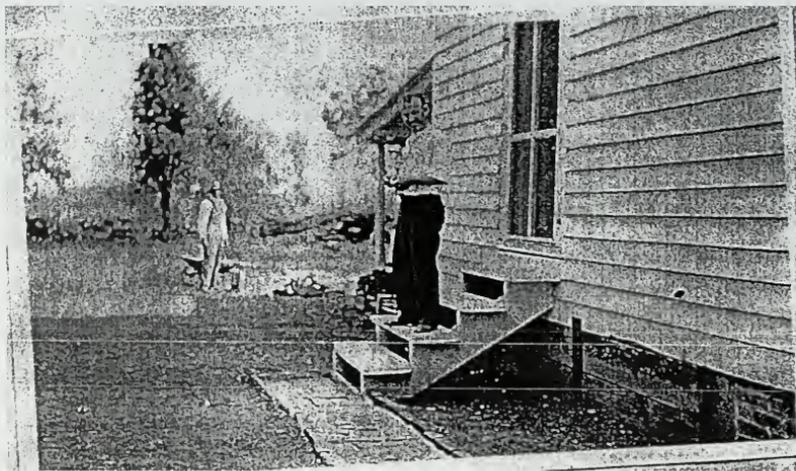
Slave Quarters/Garage, east elevation, November 1935. *The woodshed, with old carriage house behind (east side).*  
Source: J. S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

<sup>43</sup>John Shaw Billings to John Mobley, Billings Letters, 12 August 1936, Folder 126, SCL.

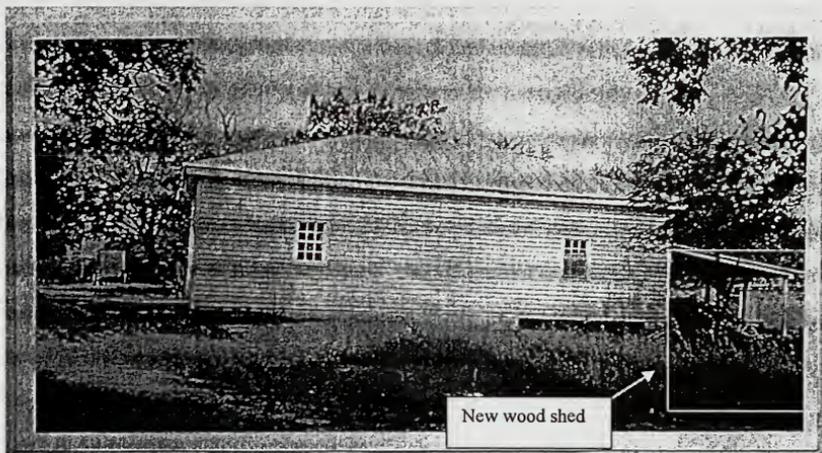
<sup>44</sup>John Shaw Billings to John Mobley, Billings Letters, 12 August 1936, Folder 126, SCL.



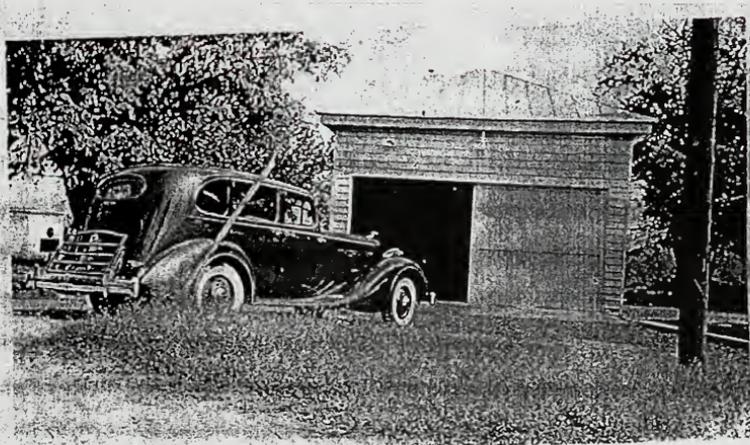
Slave Quarters/Garage, southwest oblique, October 1936. *Old Carriage House remodeled into garage—Concrete floor, Electric lights, Space for two cars, Gravel driveway, Chauffeur's quarters at rear. Our new Packard "in residence".* Source: J. S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters/Garage, west elevation, October 1936. *Also "in residence" is William Carn, our chauffeur, on steps to his room. He built brick walk. That's camera crazy Warren fetching stove wood for Patience in background.* Source: J. S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters/Garage, east elevation, October 1936. *East side of new garage. Here used to be old wood shed, note new location at rear of house.* Source: J. S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.



Slave Quarters/Garage, south elevation, October 1936. *Under the Packard's rear wheels is an ancient well, bricked over years ago.* Source: J. S. Billings Scrapbook #1, 1887-1939. Courtesy, South Caroliniana Library.

## 1940s

In 1940, a stove was installed in the chauffeur's room with a new chimney hung from the ceiling joists. New wiring was also installed but the location is unclear. In 1944, the roof was repainted grey and two years later, the garage doors were removed from their runners in order to replace the rotten wood along the bottom edge with new wood. At this time, an extra one-inch clearance was given on the bottom so that the doors would roll back easier.<sup>45</sup> In 1948, an exterminator was called to rid the chauffeur's room of bees; cracks in the walls where the bees entered were filled with steel wool.<sup>46</sup> The garage was painted white this same year.

## 1950s

Photographs indicate that in 1958, an old well, dating to about the 1880s and located in the present site of the garage driveway, caved in. The hole was filled in with dirt and paved over with gravel.

## 1970s

General repairs to the structure, as well as painting, took place in 1978 and 1979. In 1978 State Park Service employee Mike Foley requested repair supplies, which included Camco Sealer and paint for outbuildings, three gallons of each to start with, and lumber to repair floor and replace rotten boards in the outbuildings.<sup>47</sup>

## 1980 to Present

In 1986, the garage doors were removed and completely replaced with new hangers and lumber.<sup>48</sup> The top of the chimney was repaired around 1987, the steps and the siding on the back

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<sup>45</sup>Harry Hammond to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 8 October 1946, Folder 291, SCL.

<sup>46</sup>Harry Hammond to John Shaw Billings, Billings Letters, 19 September 1948, Folder 313, SCL.

<sup>47</sup>Mike Foley to Ray M. Sisk, 2 August 1978, PRT interoffice memo, PRT files. According to Gene Cobb, Camco was a brand of paint made in South Carolina that was a two-step process. The first step was the sealer and the second was the paint itself. It was used to paint brick.

<sup>48</sup>Gene Cobb, interviewed by Lee McAbee, 25 March 2002.

of the building were replaced and the underpinning repaired. In 1988, Park Service staff replaced the corner board because, according to Gene Cobb, it was sagging and the seam was coming apart. The repair consisted of jacking up the corner and then repairing the seam.

Also during this period, the roof and handrails on the west elevation steps were repaired, the exterior was painted, and wiring was updated.<sup>49</sup> The roof was painted in 1990, and in 1996 the exterior was repainted, using Sherwin Williams 20-year Super Paint, exterior latex satin. The primer was SW-A-100 oil primer, and the colors were Sherwin Williams White 2123 and Rusty Red 2719 for the roof.<sup>50</sup> The garage door was repaired in 1998. In 2001 the building was partially rewired, small sections of siding were replaced, and the sill of a door on the west side of the former apartment was repaired.

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<sup>49</sup>Gene Cobb, Interviewed by Lee McAbee, 25 March 2002. Cobb rewired the garage and had a breaker box installed, which is still in place.

<sup>50</sup>Marta Thacker, History Notes-Redcliffe, Construction, Alterations, Maintenance, 32.

# Assessment of Existing Conditions

## Slave Quarters (RC-27)

### *Exterior Elements*

#### Foundation

The Slave Quarters has a raised foundation that is supported by nine brick piers under its outer perimeter. There are three secondary brick piers, which include the base of the chimney and two piers centered under the two rooms of the cabin.

The four brick piers on the north elevation and one on the west end of the south elevation appear to be original as evidenced by the reddish brown lime mortar that was used in their construction (which was similar to that in the big-house chimneys). These five piers have been stuccoed and scored to look like stone and then later patched with Portland cement. Much of the mortar has leached out and some of the stucco and cement has fallen off.

Four of the five piers on the south elevation appear to be part of the 1936 renovation due to the cement-based mortar used. Some remnants of white paint remain on the bricks of these four piers.

The chimney base and the two other center piers also appear to be part of the 1936 renovation as indicated by their concrete mortar. Note that on the east elevation, a visible difference exists between the older and newer brick piers; their deterioration is evident.

#### Walls

The walls are of clapboard siding and are painted white. Replacement boards on all elevations are apparent by different shades of white paint at various areas of the walls, as well as visible differences in wood textures.

### Doorways

The only doors on the Slave Quarters are two wooden, white-painted doors on the south elevation. The door on the east end of the south elevation is a four-panel door. The door on the west end is a five-panel door, installed in 1936-1937.

### Windows

The Slave Quarters has four windows. Two six-over-six windows on the north elevation have vertical, strap-hinged shutters. The window on the west end of north elevation is framed and has a ledge at its base. The window on the west elevation is a four-over-four configuration. A ghost of the door is evident under this window, which had been altered to a door opening and then changed back to a window. Damage above this window has been repaired with small sheets of metal. These window sashes are not original to the cabin as is apparent from the meeting rail not matching up, as well as the presence of wood infill on its sides where someone had to fill in around the window to match the opening. The window on the east elevation is a six-over-six window with a vertical, strap-hinged shutter.

### Roof

The hipped roof of the slave quarters is covered with red-painted tin first installed in 1936-1937 that is similar in physical characteristics to the roof of the big house. The tin was hand-hammered with a standing seam of two ridges crimped together. Below the roof line, on all elevations, is a box cornice that is painted white.

### Chimneys

A substantial central double chimney stack was added to the building in the 1935-1936 renovation. This is apparent from the mortar in the cement base and historic photographs. They are not blocked or capped and the flue is open. The chimneys are still in working order.

### Steps

Two sets of steps on the south elevation lead up to the two doors. The west steps are replicas of stairs seen in a 1930s photograph and are not accessible by the public. The east steps were replaced in 2001 and are more substantial, with handrails for ease of entrance into the

structure. The east steps were also built with preservation of the structure in mind and thus are freestanding.

#### Miscellaneous

There is a metal patch present on the west end of the south elevation. Also in the same area is an eyelet where an electrical wire was attached to the building.

#### Pest Control

In 2000, the State Park Service installed the Sentricon (TM) pest control system at Redcliffe that covers the big house as well as the outbuildings. Sentricon has become a popular termite system utilized in the protection of many of the country's historic wooden structures. The first phase of the system involves placing monitoring stations around an infected site. The station is basically an in-ground box with a block of wood inside. The stations are periodically monitored and if termites are found, the wood is replaced by the Recruit (TM) bait, which includes trace amounts of hexaflumoron. The toxin is transported back into the colony by the termites. The main advantage of the Sentricon system over conventional types of pest control systems comes from the fact that it is slow-acting and allows the toxin to spread throughout the colony before the toxin takes its toll. With conventional treatments that act faster, the unaffected termites will simply avoid the sick termites and move to another place. Another advantage of the system is that because it is totally based in the soil surrounding a building, there is no destruction of historic fabric in applying the pesticide, as is the case with many conventional systems. Hexaflumoron is also one of the least toxic pesticides available and does not pose a danger to animals or humans.<sup>51</sup>

#### ***Interior Elements***

The Slave Quarters was renovated in 1936. Due to the presence of interior wood paneling, none of the original features of the structural elements are currently exposed.

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<sup>51</sup>Daniel J. Vivian, "More than a Mere Pest: Saving New Orleans from Formosan Termites," Forum Journal, Vol. 12, No. 4 (Summer 1998).

### Floors

The floors consist of plank boards of consistent width throughout the structure. According to documentary evidence, an earlier floor may lie beneath.<sup>52</sup>

### Walls

The walls and ceiling are covered in beaded tongue-and-groove paneling, which differs slightly in form due to the time difference in installation. The west room was paneled in 1937 and the east room was paneled in 1946.

### East Room

The top two boards of the paneling, which resemble molding, extend into the east room. A corner shelf in the southwest corner of the south elevation wall and the partition wall is visible. To the north of the fireplace on the partition wall is a metal plate, perhaps covering where an electrical outlet had been. There is a closet in the northwest corner of the partition wall, with evidence of where two shelves may have been.

### West Room

In the southeast corner of this room, along the south elevation wall, is a shelf. A shelf is also on the partition wall to the south of the fireplace. To the north of the fireplace along the partition wall is a closet with three shelves. Inside the closet can be seen the chimney and a hand-hewn post on the north elevation. On the north elevation wall and east of the window is an electrical wire coming up from the floor, which has been cut about one foot up. On the west elevation wall is a wire soap basket to the north of the window, brackets above the window for curtain rods, and a coat hook to the south of the window. On the south elevation wall in the southwest corner is an electrical wire rising halfway up the wall from the floor. This wire has also been cut. A fire extinguisher hangs on the south elevation to the east of the door.

### Doorways

A horizontal slat door divides rooms in the south portion of the partition wall. The door to

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<sup>52</sup>John Shaw Billings to John Mobley, Billings Letters, 12 August 1936, Folder 126, SCL.

the closet in the east room has four glass panes in the top section. The bottom panel has been replaced by chicken wire. The door to the closet in the west room is a vertical slat with ghosts of former hinges. There is no evidence of the door having had a doorknob, but there is a spool nailed to the outside of the door to serve as one.

## ***Utility Systems***

### Heating System

In the east room, to the north of the door dividing the rooms is a fireplace that has a cement hearth and brick firebox with an open flue. It is surrounded by a white, wooden mantelpiece with a shelf. In the west room, the fireplace is the same as in the east room, but does not have a mantel. There is a flue opening to the chimney with a metal surround above the fireplace, which is evidence of a wood-burning cookstove.

### Electrical System

The meter for this structure has been removed and electrical lines have been taken down. Wiring is still evident in places.

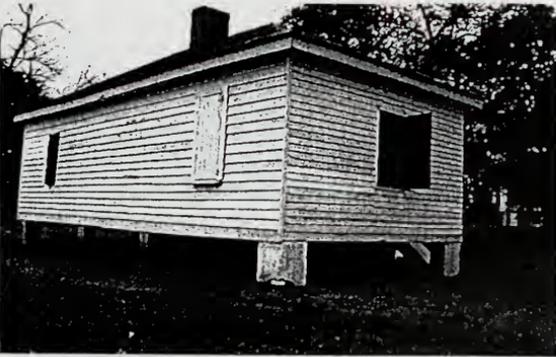
## ***Photographs of Existing Conditions***



Slave Quarters, south elevation



Slave Quarters, north elevation



Slave Quarters, northwest oblique elevation



Slave Quarters, southwest oblique elevation



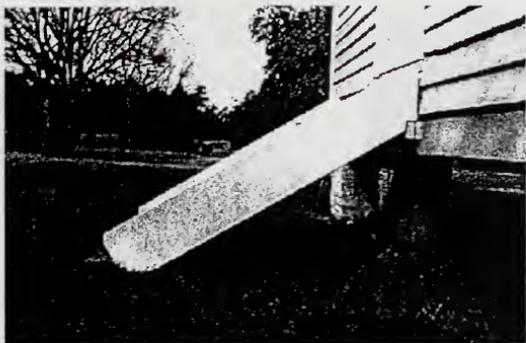
Slave Quarters, east elevation



Slave Quarters, west elevation



Slave Quarters, east cabin steps, south elevation



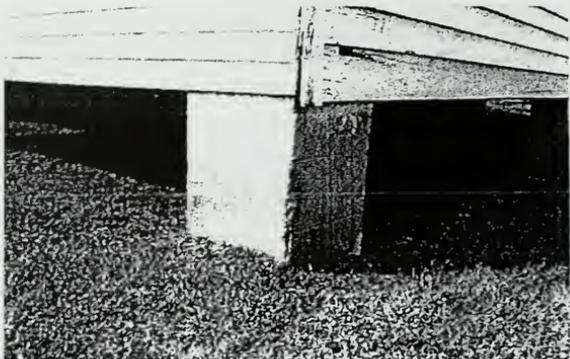
Slave Quarters, west cabin steps, south elevation



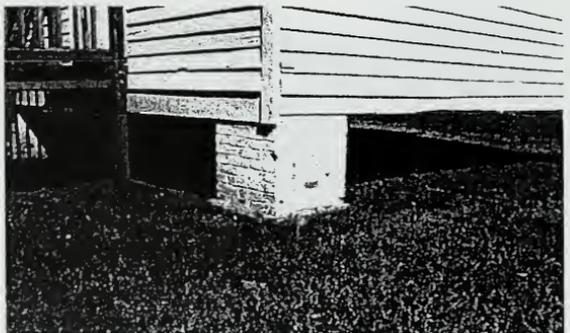
Slave Quarters, west cabin steps,  
south elevation



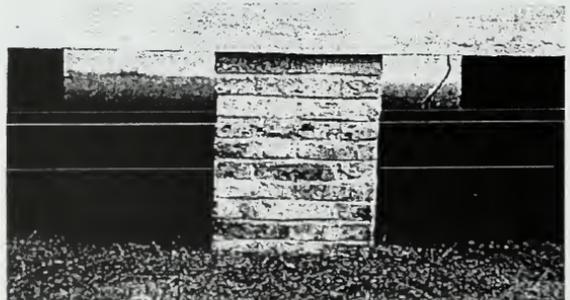
Slave Quarters, window, west elevation



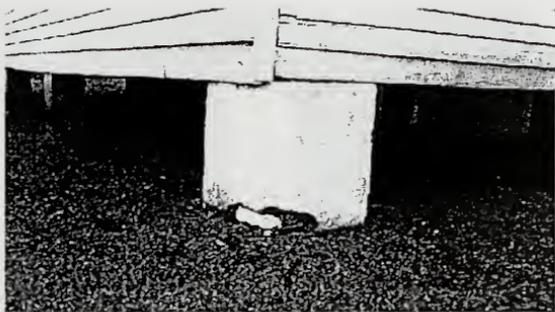
Slave Quarters, corner pier, northeast elevation



Slave Quarters, corner pier, southeast elevation



Slave Quarters, center pier, south elevation



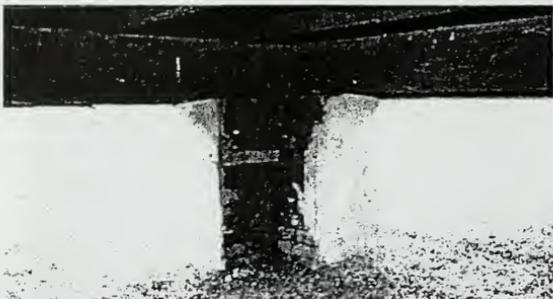
Slave Quarters, corner pier, northwest elevation



Slave Quarters, chimney base, west elevation



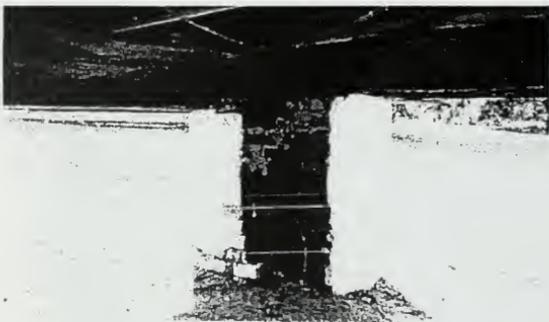
Slave Quarters, inside corner pier, southeast elevation



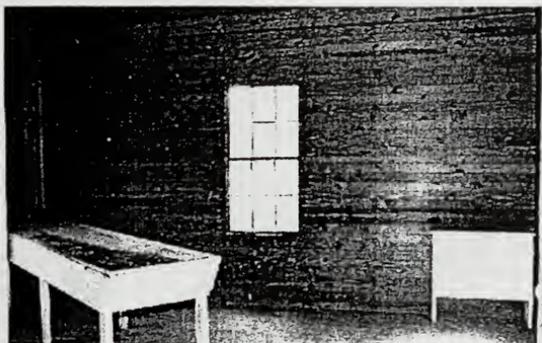
Slave Quarters, inside corner pier, northeast elevation



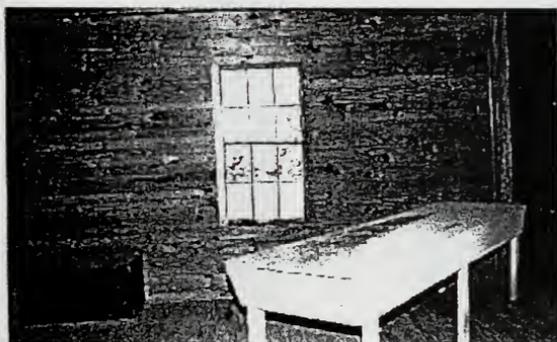
Slave Quarters, inside corner pier, northwest elevation



Slave Quarters, inside corner pier, southwest elevation



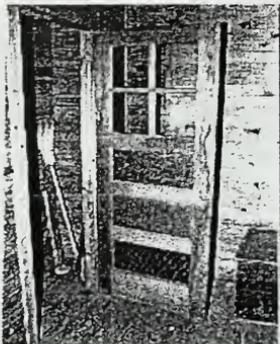
Slave Quarters, east room, east wall



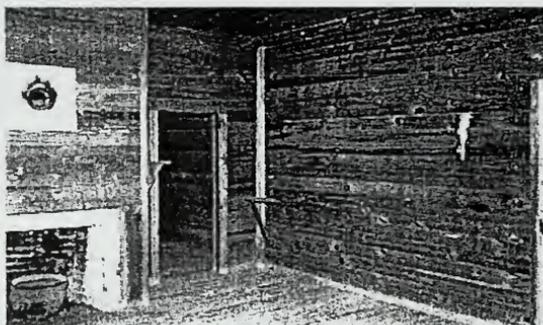
Slave Quarters, east room, northeast corner



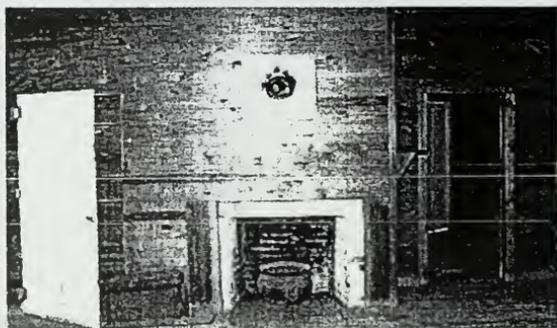
Slave Quarters, east room, west wall/partition with fireplace in center, closet on right, and door to west room on left



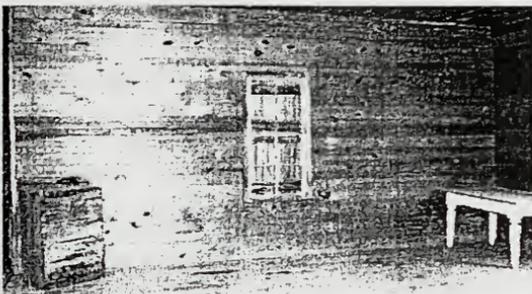
Slave Quarters, east room,  
northwest corner closet



Slave Quarters, west room, southeast corner; door leads  
to east room



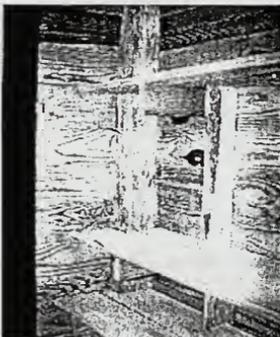
Slave Quarters, west room, east wall/partition; door to east room  
on the right; closet on the left



Slave Quarters, west room, west wall; window cover is closed



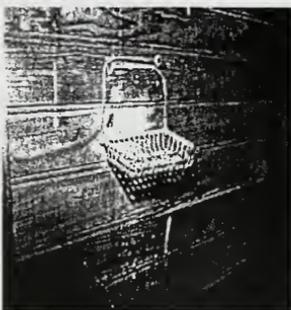
Slave Quarters, west room, spool serving as doorknob to closet



Slave Quarters, east room, interior of closet



Slave Quarters, east room, east window covering



Slave Quarters, west room, wire soap basket, west wall



Slave Quarters, west room, west window covering

## Slave Quarters/Garage (RC-61)

### *Exterior Elements*

#### Foundation

On the north elevation of the garage are two brick piers with scored stucco and leached-out lime mortar. In the 1936 alteration of the carriage house into the garage, the brick piers supporting the rest of the foundation were infilled with brick and cement to form the floor of the garage.

#### Walls

The walls are clapboard and painted white. Replacement boards are apparent by different shades of white paint at various areas of the walls and different wood textures.

#### Doorways

The building has two sliding (garage) doors on the south elevation that are painted white. On the north end of the west elevation is a wooden six-panel door that is also painted white. The bottom sill of this door has been replaced and not painted. There are no steps leading up to the door.

#### Windows

The garage has a total of three windows. The east elevation contains two six-over-six double-hung windows. These two windows appear to be altered from earlier window openings,

which is evident from a ghost above each window suggesting a previous larger window. A ghost of a window on the north elevation, where there currently is no window, is also apparent. The six-over-six sash window on the south end of the west elevation was at some point a door, as evidenced by its ghost below the window. The ghost is not clearly delineated; thus this window/door may have been an earlier remodeling when the original Slave Quarters was modified into the carriage house.

### Roof

The garage has a hipped roof that is covered with red-painted tin first installed in 1936-1937, similar in characteristics to the roof of the big house. The tin is hand-hammered with a standing seam of two ridges crimped together. Below the roof line, on all elevations, is a box cornice that is painted white.

### Chimneys

A small, crudely built brick chimney on the north end of the roof is not original to building but was part of the 1936 renovation of the carriage house into a garage and chauffeur's quarters. The chimney is supported by two straps that are braced onto two of the rafters, an arrangement that currently allows water penetration into the house.

### Miscellaneous

On the southwest corner, the original hand-hewn sill is visible. A double water spigot is located on the south end of the east elevation.

### Pest Control

In 2000, the State Park Service installed the Sentricon (TM) pest control system at Redcliffe that covers the big house as well as the outbuildings.

## ***Interior Elements***

The Slave Quarters/Garage was originally in the same configuration as the Slave Quarters but was modified in 1936 to be a garage (south room) and a chauffeur's quarters (north room). It is now used for storage and is not open to the public.

### Floor

There is a reinforced concrete floor in the south room and plank flooring in the north room, which shows signs of water damage under the chimney.

### Walls

The hand-hewn sills and posts, bracing, and exposed clapboards can be seen in the south room. The south elevation wall was replaced by sliding plank doors on a metal track. The doors have water damage on the bottom. Below the window on the north elevation in the south room are notches in the posts indicating where the floor used to be. North of the window on the west wall is a fire extinguisher.

A partition wall was built in 1936 to divide the north and south rooms. It is approximately three feet north of the original room division. Attached to this wall is a work shelf extending into the south room about two feet. The brick foundation built in 1936 can be seen under the partition wall. The door to the north room is to the east and has peeling black paint on the side facing the south room, and white paint on the side facing the north room. There is a white paneled door on the west elevation wall in place of a window. The window on the north elevation wall was replaced with clapboards. Framing that was used to hang Celotex surrounds the north room walls. The Celotex is no longer there, but fragments of it can be seen.

### Ceiling

Currently there is no ceiling; exposed rafters are evident throughout the structure. The location of the original chimney is visible in the south room because the rafters are cut to form a square opening. In the north room, hanging from the ceiling joists, is a brick chimney for a stove.

## *Utility Systems*

### Heating System

There is none. The stove in what was previously the chauffeur's room (north room) has been removed.

### Electric System

*Exterior* - An electric outlet is present on the north elevation. Above the garage doors on the south elevation is a light fixture, with a modern floodlight on the southwest corner on the box cornice. Two stray electrical wires are hanging down from the box cornice on the south elevation. An eyebolt, for above-ground power supply, is on the south end of the west elevation near the box cornice and is no longer in use. Also on the south end of the west elevation is an electric meter box, which dates from 2001.

*Interior* - Above the sliding doors, there is an electric cord along the south elevation that connects to the outside light. Two light switches are located in the southwest corner of the south wall. In the southwest corner of the west elevation wall are the 1936 wiring, a new electric box mounted on plywood, and an electrical outlet.

The partition wall has two outlets above the work shelf and one below. An outlet that has been removed is found to the east of the door in the south room; only the wires remain. To the west of this door in the north room is a light switch. Along the north elevation wall is an outlet in the northwest corner and one in the center of the wall. In the middle of the south and north rooms are identical light fixtures containing three bulbs hanging from cords.

*Photographs of Existing Conditions*



Slave Quarters/Garage, west elevation



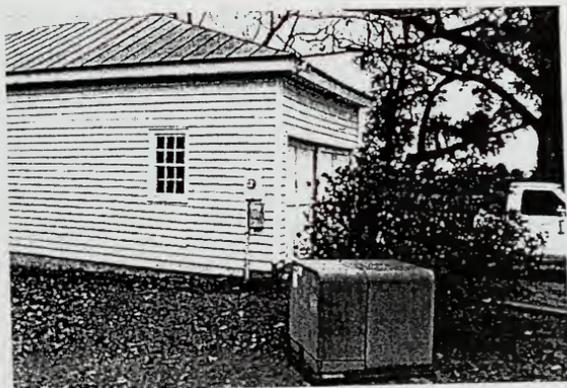
Slave Quarters/Garage, south elevation



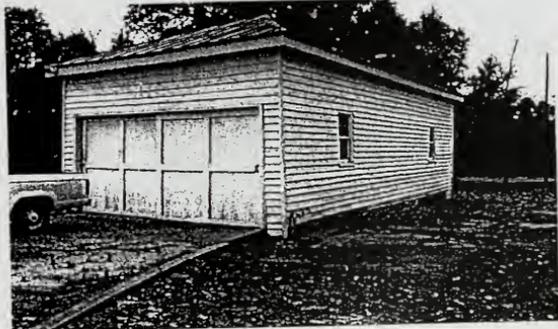
Slave Quarters/Garage, west elevation



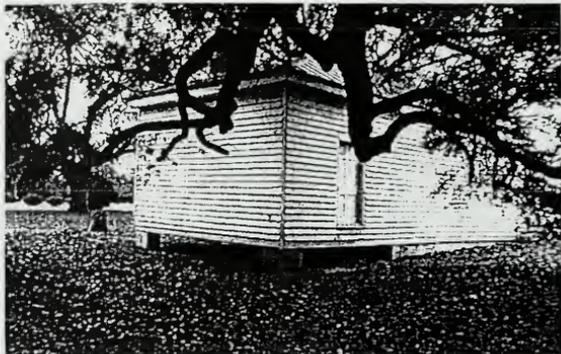
Slave Quarters/Garage, north elevation



Slave Quarters/Garage, southwest corner oblique



Slave Quarters/Garage, southeast corner oblique



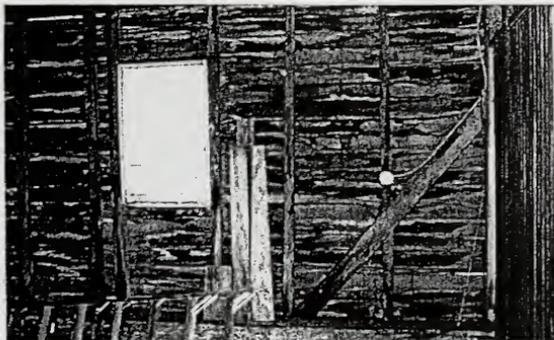
Slave Quarters/Garage, northwest corner oblique



Slave Quarters/Garage, corner pier, northeast elevation



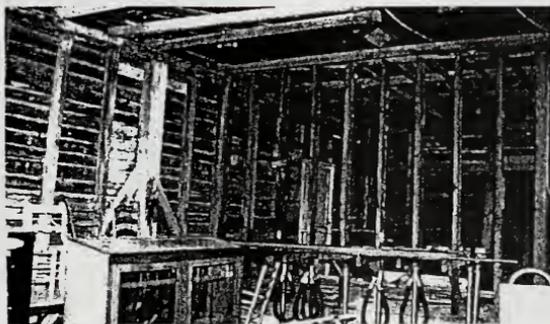
Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, southeast corner



Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, east wall



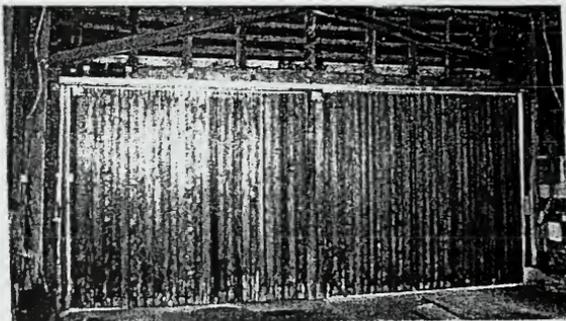
Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, northeast corner. Note doorframe leading to south room.



Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, northwest corner



Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, west wall



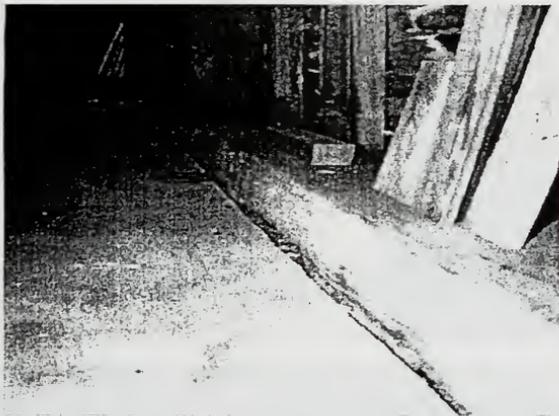
Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, south wall (garage door)



Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, hand-hewn sill on east wall



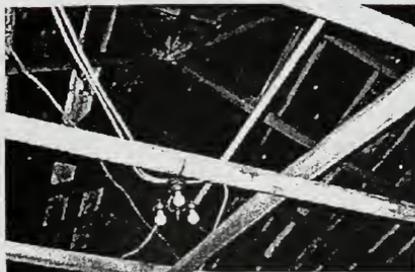
Close-up of south corner of sill at right

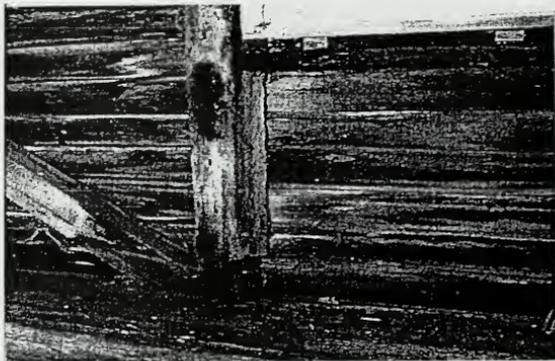


Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, hand-hewn sill on west wall

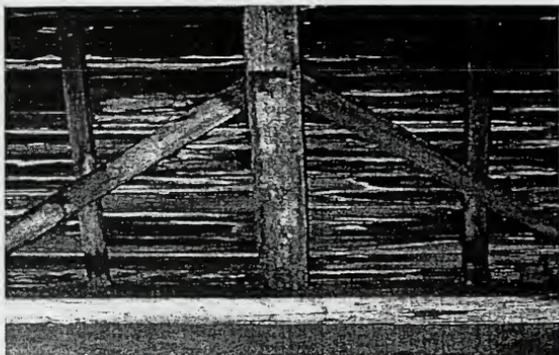


The photos to the left and right show where the former chimney in the Slave Quarters/Garage would have met the rafters. The photo below is of the same view but more clearly shows the center beams to the structure.





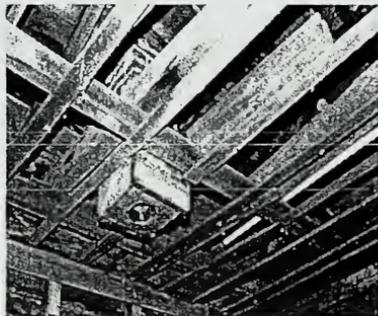
Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, east wall



Slave Quarters/Garage, south room, east wall



Slave Quarters/Garage, north room, northwest corner



North room ceiling from which stovepipe hung



Slave Quarters/Garage, north room, west wall



Slave Quarters/Garage, north room, east wall

# Materials Analysis



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Northeast Cultural Resources Center  
Boott Cotton Mills Museum  
400 Foot of John Street  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1195

IN REPLY REFER TO:

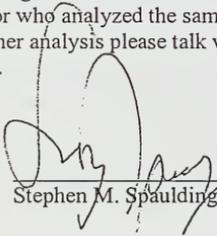
July 1, 2002

Mr. Al Hester  
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism  
1205 Pendleton St.  
Columbia, SC  
29201

Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site  
Mortar Analysis

Dear Mr. Hester,

Enclosed please find a short explanation of the process and findings from the three mortar samples sent from Redcliffe Plantation. I hope that you find them helpful as you continue to examine the construction history of the buildings on the site. If we can be of further assistance concerning the investigation of these three samples please feel free to call the Judi Sullivan, the conservator who analyzed the samples at (978) 970-5163. If you have any questions about further analysis please talk with Peggy Albee, supervisory conservator, at (978) 970-5131.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen M. Spaulding, Chief, NCRC, BCB

Cc: Peggy Albee, Project Supervisor Conservator, NCRC, BCB

MORTAR ANALYSIS  
REDCLIFFE PLANTATION

Two samples from the slave quarters at Redcliffe Plantation (one of mortar and one of stucco) were submitted for analysis. The samples were removed from the northwest (back, right) corner pier of the building. According to documentation, the majority of the piers and the chimney foundation have been re-pointed or in some cases rebuilt – with the exception of the northwest corner pier. The samples removed may therefore represent early material.

The mortar sample was removed from the interior face of the pier. It is reddish brown in color and very crumbly. The stucco sample was removed from the exterior face of the northwest pier where a scored stucco covering is currently extant. After examination in the laboratory the stucco sample was separated into two different stucco applications thus creating a total of three samples that were analyzed.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The samples were analyzed according to the Standard Operating Procedures for Mortar Analysis for Historic Buildings as practiced at the Northeast Building Conservation Branch of the National Park Service. Mortar analysis carried out by the NEBCB provides information on matrix color, color and texture of aggregate; and biological calcite or fiber constituent. Mortar analysis also determines weight percentages of acid soluble and non-acid-soluble material.

Samples were first examined by eye and under magnification to note condition, hardness, color of matrix, aggregate characteristics, irregularities, and the presence of other materials. After documenting the findings from microscopic observation, samples were pulverized with mortar and pestle and weighed. Each ground sample was then subjected to small amounts of dilute hydrochloric acid (HCl). Reaction to the HCl application was noted. HCl applications were continued on each sample until reaction (effervescence of acid solubles) was complete (i.e. until acid solubles were completely dissolved).

After pulverized mortar was treated with dilute HCl and effervescence had stopped the acid solution was poured off into a funnel lined with a filter paper. Filtrate was collected below in an Erlenmeyer flask and the color of the filtrate liquid was documented. Water was now added to the sample and swirled to suspend the mortar fines.\* Water and fines were carefully poured into a funnel with filtrate paper leaving aggregate in beaker. This process of levigation and filtration was continued until water added to sample was clear of fines (i.e. the fines were all now on filtrate paper in funnel).

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\* Fines are the impurities remaining from the lime source after the pure lime element has been dissolved in acid and the aggregate has been separated out. For example, fines usually contain magnesium, silica, ferric oxide, and aluminum. Fines may also be clay used in mortar mixes.

Aggregate and fines were both thoroughly dried. When thoroughly dry, the weights of the fines and aggregate for each sample were documented. The weight percentages of aggregate, fines, and acid soluble were calculated and documented. The weight percentages provide a general idea of the original breakdown of the mortar/stucco recipe. The color of the fines was matched to the Munsell color notation system using the Munsell Soil Chart. This color can be used to color contemporary mixes so that they match the historic material.

The mortar analysis procedures described above provide a number of consistent criteria that may be documented and examined for comparative purposes. Documenting the resultant elements from the analysis of the mortar samples establishes a baseline of extant conditions against which additional samples may be compared and contrasted and patterns of mortar use revealed.

## FINDINGS

Despite different locations, periods of application, and types of mortar, all three samples appear to have a shared sand (aggregate) source. The sand is a uniform mix of crystal clear angular grains (not milky white or yellowish – crystal clear).

Stucco. Microscopic examination of the stucco sample revealed that there were actually two coats of stucco present. The stuccos were separated with chisels and treated as two separate samples (#1 and #2). Both stuccos were finished with a lime-based white paint. The paint on the topcoat of stucco was thick in some areas. The paint on the early coat of stucco was very worn and thin.

Both stuccos were relatively soft and breakable by hand however the topcoat was harder and required a regrinding of the aggregate to eliminate all matrix on the grains of sand. The under coat (earlier coat) of stucco may be softer due to longer exposure to weathering conditions and that the weakening of the stucco was the reason that a second coat was applied. It is also possible that the earlier coat of stucco was a simply a weaker mix. The length of time between coats is impossible to tell from laboratory analysis.

Both stuccos are lime-based with very similar percentage weights and fines color. Reaction to applications of dilute HCl were distinct but short in duration suggesting that the pure lime content of the stuccos was small or that lime has leached out of the stucco through weathering over time.

Both stuccos are tan in appearance under magnification. The matrix binding the aggregate together is definitely brownish as indicated by the fines after separation from the aggregate. The matrix in the two stuccos is very similar in appearance with the topcoat being slightly darker and with slightly more aggregate in the mix. The tan fines have a distinct clay-like appearance upon drying. The tan fines are a by-product of the burning of the actual limestone rock and represent the impurities left behind after high

temperatures separate out the pure lime element of the rock. Pure lime and leftover impurities are ground together and mixed with sand and water to create mortars. The consistencies in appearance, percentage weights, filtrate color, and fines color for Sample #1 and #2 indicate that the stucco recipe for both coatings was very similar.

Mortar. The single mortar sample analyzed is quite different from the stucco samples. It is very soft, red, crumbly and well mixed. It appears to be red clay and sand with very little binder. The pulverized mortar samples displayed no reaction at all to applications of HCl suggesting that either; 1) no lime was used in the mortar mix or 2) all lime has been leached out of sample. Given that both stucco samples showed strong reactions to HCl and noting that the stucco was applied over exterior surfaces of the brick piers thus more exposed to weathering conditions – it is unlikely that all of the lime in the pier mortar samples was leached out. Processing the mortar samples does show that there was an element in the mix that dissolved in the HCl (9%), but without an effervescing reaction we can be sure that it was not lime. What this 9% of “acid soluble” represented is unknown – it could be any number of naturally occurring impurities (i.e. salts) that are water or acid soluble.

To better address the question of the elements used in the mortar it would be very valuable to analyze other samples of similar mortar found on the mansion house and other outbuildings. Mr. Al Hester suggested that mortar in one of the chimneys of the mansion house is very similar in appearance to the pier mortar sampled here. The chimney mortar would have been protected from weathering and therefore would be an invaluable comparison to the slave quarter mortar that may have suffered from exposure to rain, ground water and freeze/thaw cycles.

Sand in the mortar from the brick pier matches the sand used in the stucco mixes. Therefore, despite very different appearances and recipes, all samples share the same sand source (perhaps from somewhere on the plantation property).

## CONCLUSIONS

- No evidence of Portland cement was found in any of the samples.
- Stucco samples represent two separate applications of lime-based coatings with very similar recipes, identical sands and identical clay fines (same source of lime in both stuccos).
- Mortar appears to be largely a mix of red clay and sand. No lime was detected in the mix. An unidentified element in the mortar recipe dissolved – but did not react – upon applications of dilute HCl. Further comparative analysis of additional mortar samples may help to identify original recipe or this soft red mortar.
- The same sand source was used in all three samples. The sand is crystal clear in color, angular in shape and of a consistently fine size. As the samples probably

represent different building campaigns in the construction history at the plantation, it is likely that the sand came from a source on the property that remained unchanged over a period of time (i.e. sand pit, bank of a river or pond, etc.). No evidence of calcite, or shell was found in the aggregate of any sample.



# Recommendations

## Archeological Potential

The Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site office will maintain, according to its General Management Plan, a list of known or potential archeological sites on the property. To our knowledge, archeological excavations have only been conducted on the site of The Old Yard (see the report attached in the Appendix). Based on the research generated for this report, we recommend archeological investigation at the site of the old wine cellar (which had been used for trash accumulated from the 1935-1936 renovations and subsequently filled with truckloads of dirt) and at the old well (which dates to the 1880s and is located under the garage driveway; it too was filled with dirt).

Since little is known of the actual location of the various outbuildings of the plantation, extensive testing should be conducted in order to better interpret the working areas of the plantation. Also archeological investigation at the Slave Quarters and Slave Quarters/Garage will add to the existing knowledge of the occupants, uses, and alterations of these two structures and enhance our general knowledge of the material culture of slavery. In addition, archeological testing may help determine whether the Slave Quarters/Garage was lowered – or the grade raised – during various periods of alterations.

According to the current park manager, an archeological survey of the 50 acres surrounding the big house is planned for 2002-2003, pending budget approval. The purpose of this survey is to identify archeological sites so that they can be properly managed and preserved. The findings of this study will be used in drafting a Cultural Landscape Management Plan for

Redcliffe. The long-term goal is to identify archeological sites within the entire 360 acres.<sup>54</sup>

## **Interpretive Potential for African-American History**

Because Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site has the only extant slave cabins in the state parks system of South Carolina, these two buildings offer enormous opportunities for interpreting this important but often neglected chapter of American history. Although slavery can be a challenging subject for interpretation at historic sites, it is a crucial part of both the African-American and, more generally, the American experience. It might even be said that a deeper historical understanding of slavery on the part of all Americans would go a long way toward facilitating better race relations today. Certainly the trend in the last couple of decades has been for historic sites throughout the United States to look for ways to integrate African-American history into interpretive efforts.

In addition, African-American heritage tourism has become a potent economic force in recent years, especially but not exclusively in the South. Tour operators promote it, as do the commercial presses that are compiling and publishing book-length guides to black historic sites.<sup>55</sup>

While some state park systems and private museums have had to consider acquisition of new properties in order to incorporate this more inclusive perspective into their educational missions, South Carolina is blessed with a wealth of possibilities for interpreting African-American history. Redcliffe offers such an opportunity. Toward these ends, we make the following recommendations:

- Convert the Slave Quarters or the Slave Quarters/Garage into an interpretive center that examines the lives of slaves at Redcliffe. Jackie Bartley, chairperson of the South Carolina

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<sup>54</sup> Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site, "ARCH Budget Request Form," 2002, PRT Files.

<sup>55</sup> Among the growing number of state and local guidebooks, see, for example: George Cantor, *Historic Black Landmarks: A Traveler's Guide* (1991), Marcella Thum, *Hippocrene USA Guide to Black America* (1991), Lenwood G. Davis, *A Travel Guide to Black Historical Sites and Landmarks in North Carolina* (1991), and James Haskins and Joanne Biondi, *Hippocrene USA Guide to the Historic Black South* (1993). The National Park Service published *African American Historic Places* in 1994.

Heritage Corridor Committee, has made this suggestion previously to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. She also suggested using living history interpreters or special programs to help bring the history alive, as is done at Rosehill Plantation State Park. An archeological survey, conducted around the site of the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage, could be very valuable in this interpretation.<sup>56</sup>

Some ideas for what might be included in an interpretive display can be found in George McDaniel's *Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture*. This book explores tenant housing and its roots in slave housing in Maryland and offers suggestions concerning the interpretation of similar sites. He notes that in these small spaces, families engaged in multiple tasks, and the instruments used to complete this work were all housed within and around the structure. Some items that may have been found in the house include cooking utensils, toys, musical instruments, quilts, lighting, food, and beds. The beds might be of plank frame with plank or rope bottom, mattress of ticking or straw, and pallets of shucks or hay, on which the children slept. McDaniel also recommends that sites install clean-swept dirt yards and a kitchen garden for the family's use. Where possible, oral histories gathered from descendants, as well as the use of historic photographs, are encouraged as a basis for the interpretation. McDaniel also recommends the use of mail order catalogs and homemade utensils to authenticate the possessions of family life. It should be emphasized that adopting McDaniel's recommendations should be done only if evidence can be found that such possessions and practices existed at Redcliffe.

Alane Roundtree has conducted extensive genealogical work on her husband's family, which traces back to Hammond-owned slaves. In a letter to the current park manager, she has also suggested setting up an interpretive display in the Slave Quarters depicting the daily lives of the slave families and furnishing it with household items of the period, a list of which she enclosed in her letter. She found these items listed in James Henry Hammond's writings and she believes they are representative of items a slave family might have owned. She also

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<sup>56</sup>Jackie Bartley to Charles Harrison, 6 September 1994, PRT Files.

suggests displaying copies of documents from the Hammond Papers concerning the slave population, such as the slave inventories and plantation books.<sup>57</sup>

- Collect oral histories about the property and life at Redcliffe. People who might be included are Tom Lawton, an attorney for John Shaw Billings who currently resides in Allendale, South Carolina; David Parker, an acquaintance of John Shaw Billings, who currently resides in Edgefield, South Carolina; Mrs. Sarah Gibbes, a descendant of Thomas Jones Davies who is a relation of the Hammonds and apparently spent time at Redcliffe; and beneficiaries in Billings's will, such as Lucy Henly Dunbar; Kazyzy Henly Velt; James, David, and Sophie Henly; and Henriette Washington.
- Research ex-slave narratives in the WPA (Works Progress Administration) Federal Writer's Project from the 1930s. An example is Anson Harp, who was interviewed in the 1930s in his home near Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Harp was enslaved under James Henry Hammond, although the name of the plantation was not given.<sup>58</sup> More research into these ex-slave narratives could possibly turn up more sources for information on Redcliffe and Hammond's slave management policy.

## Maintenance Priorities

In both the Slave Quarters and the Slave Quarters/Garage, the original hand-hewn sills are in need of attention. Not only are these sills significant for structural stability, they also are an important part of the historic fabric of the plantation, being original to the structures from the late 1850s. The sill on the southwest elevation of the Slave Quarters/Garage is in direct contact with the ground, exposing it to pest damage as well as dampness. This sill needs to be elevated - or the soil regraded - in order to preserve it. The bottom sill on the north elevation of the Slave

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<sup>57</sup>Alane Roundtree to Fielding Freed, 1 March 2000, PRT Files. This suggestion was also made by Marta Thacker.

<sup>58</sup>Federal Writer's Project, Ex-Slaves Stories: Box 2, Folder 1.1.

Quarters needs additional support where it rests on top of the second pier from the east side of the building. The sill has been weakened by the weight of the building pressing down on top of the pier. It has cracked and needs to have extra bracing installed to support it.

The brick piers that support both structures also warrant attention. Over the years, Portland cement was used to repair the piers instead of the original lime-based mortar. Portland cement does not allow the bricks and mortar to expand and contract with changes in humidity and temperature, unlike the original lime-based mortar. The incompatible Portland cement patches need to be carefully removed and replaced with a lime-based mortar, similar in composition to the original mortar. The continuing deterioration of the mortar may be caused by "rising damp." This condition will ultimately cause the remaining lime-based mortar to leech out, destroying the structural integrity of the piers. To address the rising damp, the ground around the building should be contoured to create a swale to carry the water away.

The Slave Quarters/Garage in general needs some attention. First, it seems to have been utilized for the past few years as a storage shed, an inappropriate use for a historic structure. The garage should be thoroughly cleaned out, and the items stored there should be moved to another location. Stray electrical wires inside the building need to be removed. The hanging rafter in the middle of the structure needs to be secured where it was cut for the former chimney to fit. The chimney in the north room should be capped and sealed to prevent water infiltration. Gaps in siding need to be sealed. Monitored fire alarm systems should be installed in both structures.

### **Suggestions for Further Research**

- Develop an interpretive video of Redcliffe. In addition to the suggestions above, we recommend that the South Carolina State Park Service work with the University of South Carolina's Newfilm Library to develop an interpretive video of Redcliffe and its outbuildings during the ownership of John Shaw Billings (and possibly earlier) by utilizing Billings's "home movies" presently stored at the film library. According to his 1957 inventory of Redcliffe,

updated in 1967, there were twenty of "JSB's personal reels."<sup>59</sup> Whether or not these films contain images of Redcliffe is unclear, but Billings's diaries indicate that he produced quite a lot of footage on his vacations to Redcliffe before he retired. According to Andrew Murdoch, curator of the Newsfilm Library, the movies have suffered from deterioration due to their age and cannot be viewed by traditional methods. The film needs to be converted to an appropriate and usable format. At present the university does not have the funds to undertake the project. We recommend that the Park Service collaborate with the university to secure grant funds, perhaps from AOL/Time Warner, the corporate descendant of Time Inc. Billings retired from Time Inc. as executive editor in 1954 after a twenty-five year career in which he worked closely with Henry Luce.<sup>60</sup>

- Revise the existing Redcliffe National Register nomination, which includes only the big house. The nomination should be revised to include the Slave Quarters, the Slave Quarters/Garage, other historic outbuildings, and the extant landscape to better suggest the physical setting and environmental context of Redcliffe.
- Perform additional materials analysis. This may include dendrochronology (to confirm various dates of construction), paint analysis, and analysis of other mortar and stucco samples.
- Commission new line drawings of the Slave Quarters and Slave Quarters/Garage. Currently available drawings do not reflect the present appearance of the structures.

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<sup>59</sup>Inventories of Redcliffe: 1967," 113. Billings Papers, SCL.

<sup>60</sup>Andrew Murdoch to Lee McAbee, 21 February 2002.

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# Appendix

## 1. Miscellaneous Historical Documents

Some Notes on the History of Redcliffe, by John Shaw Billings, July 1963

Interview with Dr. Emily Hammond Wilson Walker, 24 November 1997

## 2. Technical Reports

National Register of Historic Places – Nomination Form  
For Redcliffe

Archeological Investigations at Redcliffe Plantation,  
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Report on Redcliffe Slave Quarters and Miscellaneous  
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Preservation Briefs 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic  
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Preservation Briefs 22: The Preservation and Repair of  
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## 4. Drawings

Line Drawings and Floor Plans of Slave Quarters

Line Drawings and Floor Plans of Slave Quarters/Garage

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## **Appendix 1: Miscellaneous Historical Documents**

**Some Notes on the History of Redcliffe, by John Shaw Billings, July 1963**

## SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF REDCLIFFE

James Henry Hammond, at the age of 51, started building Redcliffe in the autumn of 1857. That November the Legislature of South Carolina elected him to the United States Senate. His absence in Washington delayed completion of his new home until sometime after mid-year 1858.

This house was situated on a 400 acre tract in Beech Island, an amorphous community in what was then Edgefield District (now Aiken County). Its contractor was William H. Goodrich who was listed in the Augusta Directory of 1841 as "carpenter, r. Reynolds, 1 door W. of Campbell." By 1857 a large-scale builder, Goodrich provided the technical engineering and skilled artisans to execute Hammond's plans. The cash cost of the house was \$22,000 -- a figure well below the real total because Hammond provided his own slave labor for the heavy work, his own home-made bricks and most of the heart pine timber cut on his own land.

Since his marriage to Catherine Fitzsimons and his removal to his wife's inheritance at Silver Bluff in 1831, Hammond and his family had occupied a plantation house at a small place in Barnwell District called Silverton. It stood on a slight rise in an oak grove, just off the old Miner's Bridge Road, north of the present town of Jackson. This rough-hewn house, undistinguished in design or structure from other planters' homes in the vicinity, was handy for the operation of Hammond's plantations at Silver Bluff and Cowden but it was in a low malarial area, remote from town and neighbors and incapable of reflecting its owner's social and financial rise in the world of cotton. Here, though, Hammond had worked hard as a planter, increasing the annual income from Silver Bluff from \$600 to \$30,000. Here he had lived when he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives (1834-36) and this was his home when he served as Governor of South Carolina (1842-44). But he was growing tired and restless and as early as 1853 began to scout

the neighborhood for a new and better home site for his old age.

In the early spring of 1855 he found what he wanted in Beech Island -- the house and land of Dr. Milledge Galphin, grandson of George Galphin, the Indian trader of Silver Bluff. The large comfortable two-story house, built in 1818, stood on a clay bank overlooking the Savannah River forest (no glimpse of the river) and Augusta beyond. For an unknown price Hammond purchased this residence from Dr. Galphin, plus some 400 acres of surrounding land, and moved his family into it in August 1855. He named the place Redcliffe, from the red clay "cliff" in front. In his letters he always spelled it as one word, with the flossy final "e".

This first Redcliffe, however, was only a ~~temporary~~ temporary abode for Hammond who always intended to build a larger finer house for himself nearby. After one false start a site was selected a quarter mile eastward on a northwest-southeast ridge, four hundred feet above sea level. It too sloped off across the Savannah River swamp to the hills of Georgia ten miles away. (His "front fence", Hammond called those hills). Hammond's purpose was to make the house big and airy -- and to outshine Milford, seat of his rival Governor John L. Manning (1850-52) near Pinewood,

The original house stood on heavy brick pillars nine feet above the sanded ground. It was 70 feet across the front eaves, 61 feet in depth. It consisted of two floors, each with a hall 53 feet by 20 feet. Four rooms, 26 feet by 20 feet, opened off each hall. All ceilings were 14 feet high. Double-decked porches were built on all four sides. Only those at front and back had steps down to the ground. Large French windows in all eight rooms opened on to the porches, upper and lower. On the roof between the chimneys was an enclosed cupola or "observatory" as Hammond called it -- a good-sized room (17 feet by 15 feet) consisting almost entirely of windows from which a fine view of the flat countryside could be had.

When Hammond went off to Washington to take his seat in the United States Senate (Jan. 7, 1858) he turned the job of supervising the building of his new home over to his eldest son Harry. Lead pipes were run through the new structure for illuminating gas (It was never used. The pipe stubs were whittled off to make sinkers for fishing tackle). The heart pine floor of the main hall was covered with a special kind of colorful linoleum imported from Belgium. Doors, mantels and banisters were made out of local sycamore. Special bookcases of the same wood were carved by a German craftsman and installed in the library.

When was this new house first occupied by the family? In 1901 Harry Hammond wrote his wife: "On July 3 forty-three years ago [1858] I was the first of the family to sleep here. The doors and windows were not in. I slept on a cot by the fireplace in your room and was roused by a thunder storm in the night". The Hammond family moved into Redcliffe in August or September of 1858. Hammond transferred the name Redcliffe to this new home and the Galphin house which he had occupied for three years was thereafter know as the Old Yard.

In the back yard of Redcliffe, set at right angles to each other, were four large well-built slave houses, enough for eight families or sixteen house servants, not counting the children to carry lamps and tote water. The kitchen also in the back yard was the usual small box-like structure with an open fireplace for cooking -- ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ quickly replaceable whenever it burned down. Stables and a carriage house were at a little distance.

Redcliffe was originally furnished at considerable expense. On a European tour in 1836-37 Hammond had brought back oil paintings for the old Silverton house: a De La Tour (man and woman with candle), a Gilbert Stuart ("P. Patton"), a Sir Thomas Lawrence (unknown man), a Sir Godfrey Kneller (Bolingbroke). These last three are now in the Columbia Museum of Art -- inferior works by superior artists. To cancel a \$20,000 debt from Governor James Hamilton Hammond had accepted a pair of paintings of William and Mary of Orange which were represented as Venetians. Later paintings:

proved them to be nothing of the kind. On his European travels Hammond was so entranced with Naples and its bay that he ordered an Italian artist to make him five water colors of the area from different viewpoints, including Vesuvius all as smoke. Mrs. Hammond contributed two original Charles Willson Peales, portraits of her parents painted in Philadelphia in 1813<sup>5</sup>

Hammond's son Harry on his trip to Europe in 1855 commissioned a copy of Raphael's Transfiguration for the parlor, along with copies of several Madonnas, a dozen plaster busts of the Great & Famous for the library and crates of lithographs of now forgotten "masterpieces".

All Redcliffe windows were curtained in heavy green and gold stuff with long gilt tassels hanging from heavy hammered brass valences. The floors were covered with Brussels carpets, mostly in bright rose patterns. Most of the furniture was custom made. Hammond ordered a special set of china for every occasion -- a dear<sup>d</sup> white trimmed in gold, with a gold sunburst encircling the name HAMMOND. Into all this plus<sup>y</sup> elegance Senator Hammond now settled down to enjoy his semi-retirement.

The first major change in Redcliffe came almost immediately. Mrs. Hammond complained that the winds of winter swept into the open space under the house, chilled it beyond any relief from the fireplaces and practically lifted the whole building off its foundations. This whole under-area was then bricked up around the walls and the rough basement used for storage. Much later the basement was partitioned off with brick walls into four rooms to match those on the floor above. Brick also replaced the sand floor of the basement hall.

Hammond occupied the bedroom on the main floor across from the parlor. His dining room was behind the bedroom, opposite the library. Much later the dining room was moved into the basement, directly beneath the bedroom.

Hammond never regarded Redcliffe as a plantation. It was his pleasure dome, his ~~xxx~~ retreat from the miasmal

swamps of Silver Bluff and Cowden. He commissioned a young landscape architect names Louis Berckmann who had just come to Augusta from Belgium, to plant an avenue of magnolia grandiflora from the new house to Glen Loula, the home of his son Paul about half a mile away. He used the open fields for experiments with vineyards and fruit trees, keeping clog scientific records on the results. He set out 500 catawba vines to make wine and had his son Harry bring back thousand of cuttings from French vineyards. He dug a large wine cellar~~s~~ in his back yard and roofed it over to rack up his domestic vintage. He played around with sorghum ("Chinese sugar cane," he called it), claimed it made a pint of syrup from ten stalks, exclaimed "It beats cotton!" But never did he plant a regular ~~was~~ profitable crop on the Redcliffe land.

He put his younger sons to running Silver Bluff and Cowden and though he grumbled constantly about their lazy incompetence, he continued to make a profit of about \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year off those plantations.

Then the Civil War -- and Redcliffe became an arsenal of food for less fortunate neighbors (especially William Gilmore Simms).

Hammond died at Redcliffe Nov. 12, 1864. He was buried in the woods half a mile ~~is~~ away in what ~~was~~ became a family cemetery. He had been in his fine new home a scant six years.

His widow continued to occupy Redcliffe until January 1873. Then, because it was smaller and more habitable, she moved herself, her niece and her staff to the Old Yard where she lived until her death in 1896. Afterwards that fine old house with its beautiful flying staircase was used to store farm machiner<sup>y</sup> and farm surplus. Finally negro servants were moved into it and what you would expect~~ed~~ happened: The Old Yard went up in flames and was completely destroyed in less than an hour one icy winter morning in 1917, aged 99 years.

The Harry Hammond family had been occupying the Old Yard until old Mrs. Hammond decided to move them up to

Redcliffe in her place. This swap of abodes was more than just a physical exchange; it had a significant influence on Redcliffe and its future history. In 1859 Harry Hammond had married Emily Cumming of ~~Augusta~~ Augusta.. Her well-to-family had played a primary part in the industrialization of that city by means of the Augusta Canal. When she moved from the Old Yard to Redcliffe in 1873, she found the large house practically stripped of its furnishings -- "a barren barn" her husband called it. Old Mrs. Hammond had taken what she wanted to the Old Yard with her and the rest of the furniture, china, silverware, pictures and so forth had been largely divided between her two daughters, under their father's will. Besides, Hammond's other son had inherited many family items which also had been removed from Redcliffe. As a result the house had to be practically refurnished to provide the family with the barest needs. Emily Hammond accomplished this feat by moving into Redcliffe a continuous quantity of Cumming furnishings, things that she as an only daughter had inherited from her parents. The result was that over the years Redcliffe was transformed from a Hammond home into a Cumming home. Today four out five of the old pieces of furniture are Cumming rather than Hammond.

Also symbolic was the fact that Emily Cumming Hammond finally bought Redcliffe outright from her father-in-law's estate and the title to the whole property was vested in her rather than in her husband.

In 1886 occurred the second major change in Redcliffe's appearance. For years the flat open porches on the upper story had been rotting away for lack of proper rain drainage. In that year Harry Hammond had the upper porches removed entirely, the columns sawed off by nearly two feet and a new shingle roof with the proper pitch installed. At the same time he connected the front and east side porches, bringing the main steps down from the corner of the single piazza. This change marred the house's symmetry

and changed its classic look but it could be defended on the ground of practicality.

In July 1901 the observatory on the roof was removed as a fire hazard. A widow's walk was left in its place. At the same time the first primitive form of waterworks was installed in Redcliffe. The system involved a well pump in the back yard, first operated by a windmill, later by rotary mule power, which lifted the water to open tanks in the attic whence it fed down by gravity to a single bathroom in the corner of the upper hall and to two toilets and ~~the~~ kitchen sink below. Also the house was painted for the first time in thirty years.

Emily Cumming Hammond died in 1911. Her will divided her estate between her five children. As the only occupants of Redcliffe at the time, her daughter Julia and her son Henry together bought out the interests of the three other heirs -- Katharine, Christopher and Alfred -- and thus became the sole owners of the property. Neither Julia nor Henry had any surviving children to inherit the place. On the death of Julia in 1935 it was bought by their nephew John S. Billings who had been born there in 1898.

Major restoration followed in 1935-36. A new metal roof was put on. The house was painted inside and out. ~~Back~~ All ceilings were removed (great chunks had perilously fallen) and replaced with thin modern plaster on wire lathe. The coming of electricity made a modern water system possible: four new bathrooms were put in. The house was wired for electric light.. All furniture was repaired, refinished, reupholstered. Oil heat was installed.

After nearly a <sup>15</sup> century of neglect Redcliffe came back to life again and ~~was~~ in fair shape to go as a gift to the State of South Carolina.

July 1963

JSB

**Interview with Dr. Emily Hammond Wilson Walker, 24 November 1997**

# Interview with Dr. Emily Hammond Wilson Walker

November 24, 1997

## 1. When did you live at Redcliffe?

She stated she was born at Redcliffe on July 8, 1904 and lived at Redcliffe until she was 6 months old and her parents moved to Kathwood.

## 2. How often did you visit Redcliffe after your parents moved?

Was constantly asked to visit by her aunt Julia. Visited Redcliffe, during her childhood, at least once a month.

## 3. Who did you visit when you came to Redcliffe?

Visited her aunt, Julia Hammond Richards. She was picked up by horseback by her aunt and stayed 2-3 days and sometimes up to a week with her other cousins and siblings. Julia had a house party every summer for her nieces and nephews.

## 4. John Billings took down two outbuildings in the late 1930's. Do you remember where these were? Do you remember which direction the buildings faced? Was anyone living in the four old slave quarters when you visited?

She indicated that she did not remember where the other two slave quarters were. Also said they were never known to her as "slave" quarters. She did say that the building that is now known as the garage had a shed to the left for farm equipment (the side where the Holly tree is) and a fence in front of the shed. Behind the garage (the side where the picnic tables now are) there was farm machinery and wood.

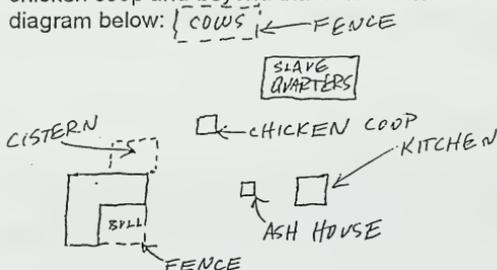
## 5. Where was the kitchen at Redcliffe when you were a child? Outside? Inside? If outside, was it a large structure? Do you know how old it was? Did it have a large fire place or a stove?

In her childhood days, the kitchen was outside and was a very small structure. It was near the present day fire hydrant. Inside the kitchen was a wood burning stove. To the left of the kitchen was an ash house (approx. 4' tall and 2-3' wide and 4' long; on the cistern side). This was put up by Harry Hammond (her grandfather) for collecting fertilizer, believed pot ash was an excellent fertilizer. She also indicated that there was a windmill between the back left corner of Redcliffe and the stables. The windmill stood over a well that usually went dry in

the summer. The windmill was eventually pulled down by wisteria and the well was filled in.

6. Who built the stables? Do you remember anything in particular about the stables? When did John Billings take the one half off?

Her uncle Henry Cumming Hammond built the stables in 1908. It had an intricate feeding system that she remembers. The open end of the "L" shaped stables had an enclosed fence which housed a bull. Behind the cistern was also a chicken coop and beyond that was an enclosed fence for Jersey cows. See diagram below:



7. Do you remember anything about the cistern? How was it used? Was it in use when you were a child?

The cistern near the stables was primarily for the horses and was open when she was a child. The cistern at the Old Yard was more recent and probably late 19th Century. The kids liked to swim in it.

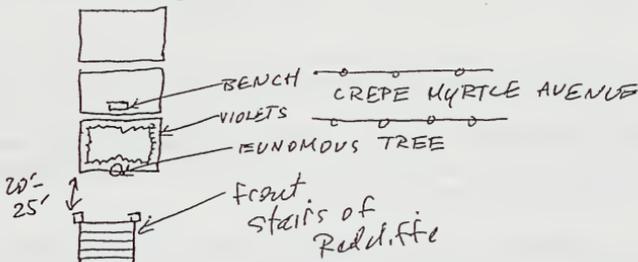
8. Are you familiar with a wine cellar at Redcliffe? Do you remember where it was? John Billings wrote it caught on fire and he later filled it in, is this true?

Did not really remember wine cellar, other than she thinks she remembered John Billings used it as a dump and it caught on fire.

9. Do you remember the gardens at Redcliffe? How were they shaped and where were they? What was growing in the garden? Who tended the garden? Which of Harry Hammond's daughters loved roses? Do you know if the gardens were much larger during your great grandfathers (JHH) time?

She remembers that the crepe myrtles on the avenue to the right of Redcliffe were much bigger and were probably planted by her great-grandfather, James Henry Hammond. She also noted that the pampas grass and prickly pear cactus

were there when she was a child. Her aunt Julia tended the gardens and she loved roses. The white planters at the bottom of the Redcliffe stairs always had annuals in them. In the front of Redcliffe was the formal garden. She said there were three boxes of gardens with walkways in between. Each box was 15'-20' wide and was filled with roses. Violets were on the edges surrounding the roses. Yellow roses (Marshall Neal type), pink and white roses she remembered in particular. There was a seat in the front of the second box for Emily Cumming Hammond, her grandmother, to sit on. There was a "eunomous" tree in the front of the first box on the edge. The gardens also had "heliotropes" a purple flower with a wonderful smell. See diagram below:



10. What can you tell me about the landscaping at Redcliffe? Do you remember any interesting trees? Where the lands terraced when you were a child?

She stated that the Mulberry trees were planted after the Civil War by her grandfather for silk worms to produce silk. The terracing was at Redcliffe in the early 1900's as so probably dates to the mid-late 19th Century. She said that the terraces had shrubs on them but that John Billings was afraid that someone would jump out from the shrubs and attack him so all of this was taken down. Henry Cumming Hammond created the pond and a lot of people brought fish to it. It was overstocked. She remembers swimming in the pond and the fish would nibble at her legs. Said, "This was a little unnerving." On the other side of the present day boiler house was a small garden with flowers and vegetables-same singular box design. Also said she remembered something called a "zsu-zsu" tree near the garage. Her brother Harry planted the two Camellia bushes on the left side of Redcliffe. He also planted three large rows of Gardenias where the present day parking lot is (some of the Gardenias are still there). Said there was another cork oak between Redcliffe and the Old Yard. There was also a Sweet Bay Tree near the Crepe Myrtle avenue near the old stump where the prickly pear cactus is growing.

11. How did the road at Redcliffe continue after Magnolia Lane and coming toward the house?

She said that the road came down Magnolia Lane and to the rear of the house then turned left and went down the present road to the natural scrap pile. She also said there was a road which came to the Hackberry tree near the front of Redcliffe and met up with the other road near the wood line where they converged and made one road. To the left of the second road where bee hive boxes, quince bushes and sweet heart roses. Down in the cleared field to the right of the house was a barn where oats were grown and scuppernongs (these were also to the left of the road). See diagram below. (NEXT PAGE)

#### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION THAT CAME UP IN INTERVIEW:

Said John D. Rockefeller visited Redcliffe and went to the Agricultural Society with Harry Hammond (her grandfather). Also said President Taft visited Redcliffe around 1910-12 to see her grandfather.

Said her grandfather loved to eat limburger cheese and this made her grandmother very mad because it really stunk. He also loved to smoke cigars and always had a bottle of Claret (French red wine). He would carry around two smaller flasks with wine in them and would always have them with dinner. She liked to sit near him at the dinner table because he would always give her a little.

Said the Galphin House/Old Yard had a spiral staircase and that Sidney lived there but eventually Henry Cumming Hammond used it as a barn and spontaneous combustion from the dry hay stored underneath it caused it to burn down.

Said that the Ballfield was given to the Beech Island Recreation Association or Lions Club in the 1940-50's.

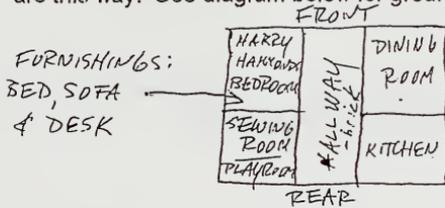
Also said that her uncle Henry put the bathrooms up stairs in Redcliffe.

Stated that the front porch at Redcliffe had stairs leading down from the left and off of the rear of the porch on the right side. Said that the porches were filled with wisteria.

Said that road down to the pond behind Old Yard is where the "red cliffs" are and still should be. This is how Redcliffe was named.

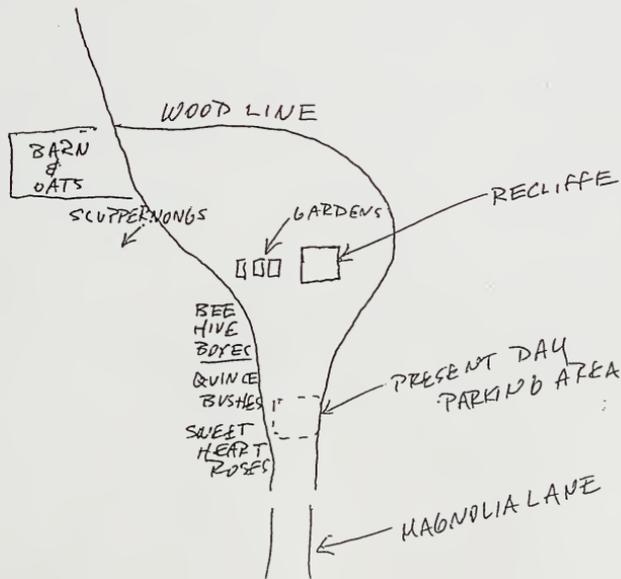
Stated that a black servant named Patience came from Kathwood to Redcliffe to be with Julia when she was sick before she died.

Harry Hammond liked to have window panes horizontal instead of vertical, said you could see more that way. That is why the window panes on the ground floor are this way. See diagram below for ground floor layout:



Harry broke one leg when he was a child and one leg was one inch shorter than the other. This is the reason he was a non-combatant during the war (was a quartermaster). When he returned from the war he had a calico shirt that he patched over and over while in the service. His wife, Emily, was in the process of throwing it away and he stopped her. It was too precious. The shirt still exists and is still in the family's hands.

GRAM FOR # 11



## **Appendix 2: Technical Reports**

**National Register of Historic Places – Nomination Form For Redcliffe**

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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: Aiken	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	5/9/73

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Redcliffe

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1 1/2 mi. S. of Beech Island, S. C. on Hwy. 125. Bounded on the W. by Hwy. 125, E. by 278, N. by the property of George McElmurry Davies; S. by property of Paul Dunbar & property of Mrs. J. T. Willis.  
Beech Island

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Aiken      CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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	<input checked="" 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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
John Shaw Billings

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Redcliffe

CITY OR TOWN:  
~~North Augusta~~ Beech Island

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Aiken

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Survey: Lower Savannah Regional Council

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 11188

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Redcliffe, begun in 1857 by James Henry Hammond, is a two-story house of wooden construction. Originally, the house stood nine feet above the ground. Double decked porches were built on all four sides. Only the front and back porches had steps down to the ground. Large French windows in all rooms opened on to the porches, upper and lower. An enclosed cupola or observatory; consisting almost entirely of windows, was built on the roof between the two chimneys. Each floor consisted of one central hall with two rooms on either side. The flooring was done in heart pine. Local sycamore trees furnished the wood for the doors, mantels, and banisters. Bookcases of sycamore were made for the library by a German craftsman.

The first major change came immediately after the Hammond family moved into the house. Chilling winds swept through the open space under the house. To control the chill factor, the under area was bricked around the nine feet walls. Later the basement was partitioned off with brick walls into four rooms to match the other floors. Brick soon replaced the sand floors.

In 1886, another major change altered the appearance of Redcliffe. The flat open porches had been damaged greatly, due to the lack of proper drainage. Harry Hammond, son of the builder, removed the upper porches bringing the main steps down from the corner of the new single piazza. This change marred the classic symmetry of the house. In July, 1901, the observatory on the roof was removed as a fire hazard. A widow's walk replaced the former cupola.

A young landscape architect, Louis Berckman from Belgium, planned the grounds at Redcliffe. An avenue of magnolia grandiflora was planted. The open fields near the house were used for scientific experiments with vineyards and fruit trees.

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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) 1857 - 1973

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/Phi-            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | osophy  | <u>Journalism</u>                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

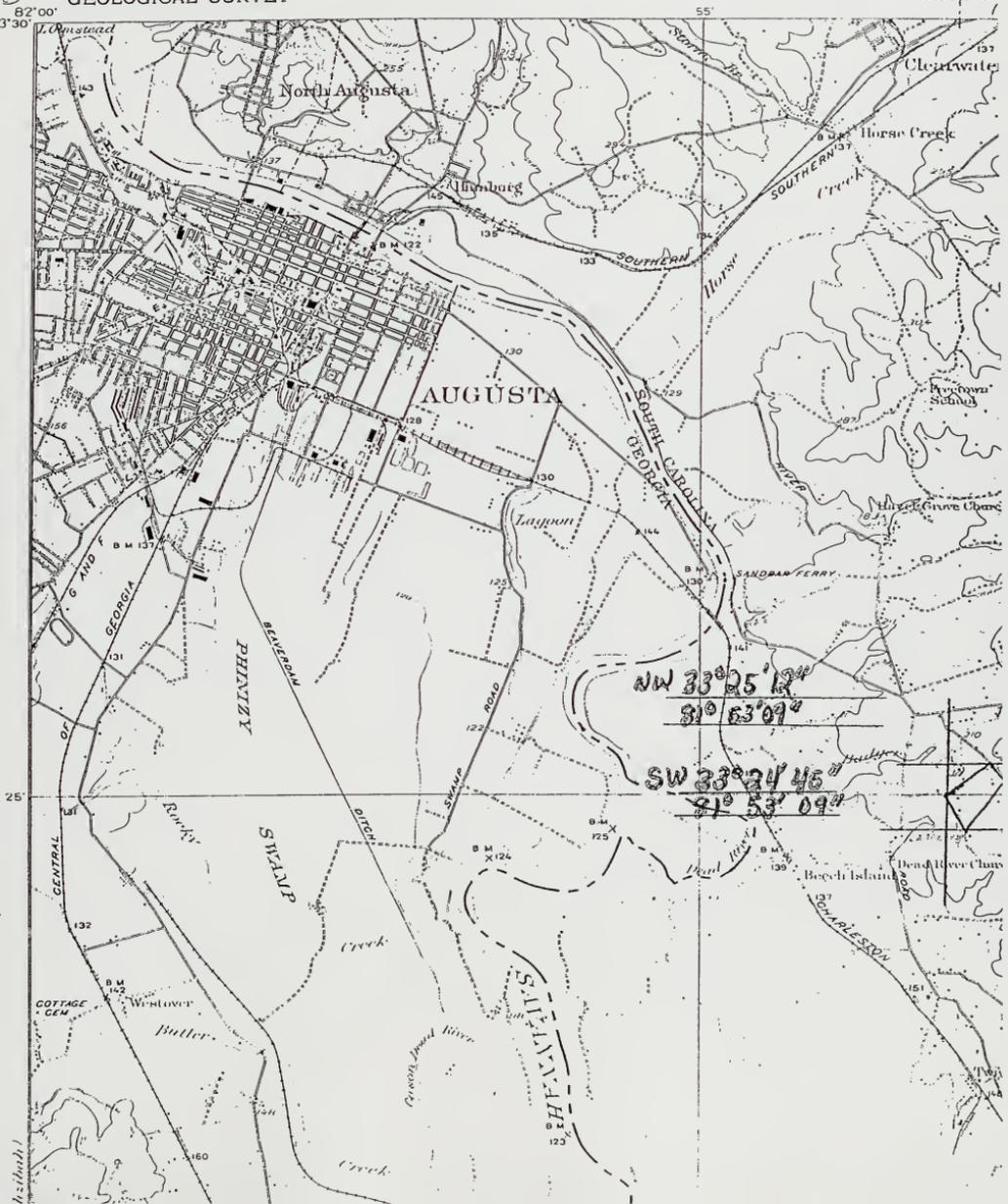
Redcliffe is representative of the architectural styles in the South during the early nineteenth century. Built on brick pillars like many of the Low Country houses, Redcliffe maintained the pattern of a central hall with four rooms, so characteristic of the Carolina Up Country. Originally Georgian in style, the house now features many Greek Revival elements. Two slave quarters remain, illustrating the pattern of life prior to the War Between the States.

The builder of Redcliffe, James Henry Hammond, was born on November 15, 1807, at Stony Battery, Newberry District in South Carolina. In 1825, he graduated from the South Carolina College. After reading law in Columbia, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia, he was admitted to the bar in 1828. He was elected to the United States Congress in 1834, several years after his marriage to Catherine Fitzsimons. Hammond was elected Governor of South Carolina in 1842. During his two terms as Governor, he secured the transformation of the arsenal at Columbia and the Citadel into military academies. He became a United States Senator in 1857. In the troubled days before the War Between the States, Hammond realized the importance of cotton to the agricultural South. "Cotton is King" he declared in the Senate chambers. Hammond was greatly interested in the improvements of farming methods. In the 1840's he promoted the use of marl. Ahead of his time in social awareness, he provided hospital care for his workers and gave nursery care to the children of working mothers. In December, 1855, he was interested in the organization of the Beech Island Agricultural Society. Due to his interest in agriculture, he was visited by Richard Lamb Allen, who in 1842 founded the AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

The present owner of Redcliffe is John Shaw Billings, a descendant of Hammond. Educated at Harvard, Billings later went to TIME magazine. He became Managing Editor of TIME, then Managing Editor of LIFE. At one time, Billings was called the editorial prime minister of TIME -- LIFE, Inc., being Editorial Director of all TIME Inc. An important figure in American journalism, John Shaw Billings had a front seat in American history.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNI  
DEPTME  
CORPS





**Report on Redcliffe Slave Quarters and Miscellaneous Observations on the Main House**



Report on Redcliffe Slave Quarters and miscellaneous  
observations on the Main House

Mark Reinberger, Ph.D.

School of Environmental Design

University of Georgia

January 19, 1998

During 1996 and 1997 Gary Porter (a graduate student in the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design) and myself visited, measured and drew the two outbuildings behind Redcliffe's main house, known as the "tenant house" and the garage. Our conclusions about these buildings follow. We also measured and drew the horse barn behind the main house, but no report seems necessary for this structure, which was built in the early 1900s and was a very progressive agricultural building for the time. (We were told that originally there was another, identical, barn at right angles to the surviving barn.)

The tenant house and garage are (or at least, were) identical in plan, scale and structure. Both were probably slave quarters, each holding two families. Each consisted of two rooms with a chimney block between (creating a form commonly known as a saddle-bag house). Both have identical braced frame structures with: heavy sills all around; diagonally



houses. On the west elevation, the opening was a window (as seen by its original height), then a door, and then a window again.

The rear sill of the tenant house is continuous and hewn, the single biggest evidence for the historical continuity of this structure (and of its similarity to the garage). Integral to its corner joints are the rear corner posts and side sills. The front sill has been partially replaced with newer lumber. The joists are a mixture of straight and circularly sawn lumber: the former are probably original; the latter replacements from a later time.

Some elements of the tenant house are relatively new (that is, they date from the twentieth century). The panelling, structural elements, and window sash have already been mentioned. The door between the rooms is very new. The five-panelled entrance door into the one half probably dates from the early twentieth century. The stucco on the north piers was also applied fairly recently.

In the 1930s, the owner of Redcliffe had one of the slave quarters converted to a garage, with a small, roughly-finished apartment in the rear for his chauffeur. The central chimney was removed so that the front two-thirds of the building could be opened into a single space, with a new concrete floor lower than the old wood floor, which was removed. A new

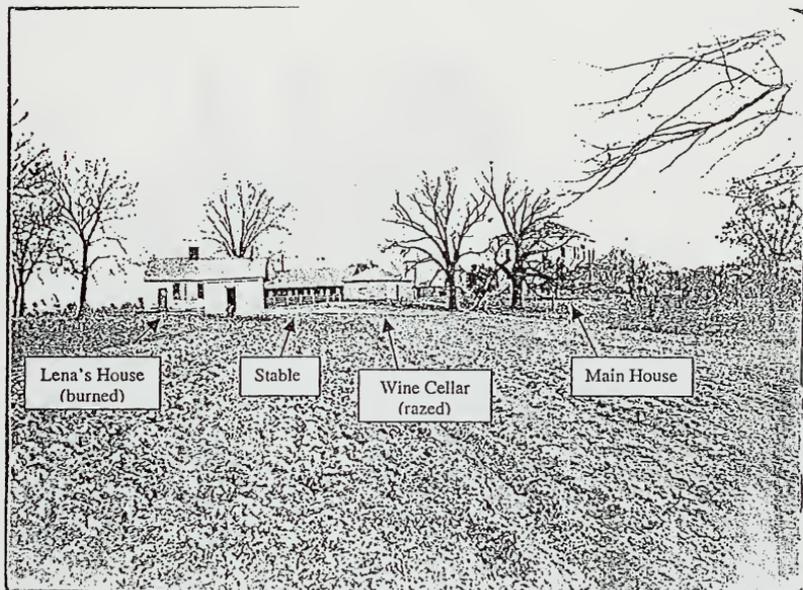


stove chimney was hung from the ceiling joists in the back room. Installation of the concrete slab necessitated that a continuous brick foundation be installed between the original piers (which can still be seen). The front wall was entirely removed, and a new wall -- supported by a kind of truss -- topped the garage door. Some of the original windows and doors were changed at this time, but the original size and location of all openings can be seen both inside and outside the structure, confirming that it was originally identical to the tenant house.



## Appendix 3: Miscellaneous Historic Photographs





(Redcliffe167.tif)

Photograph of Redcliffe Plantation, east elevation of grounds and buildings, c.1900. *Looking East from the 'Old Yard' toward Redcliffe.* Source: State Park Service, Historic Photographs of Redcliffe, compact disk.

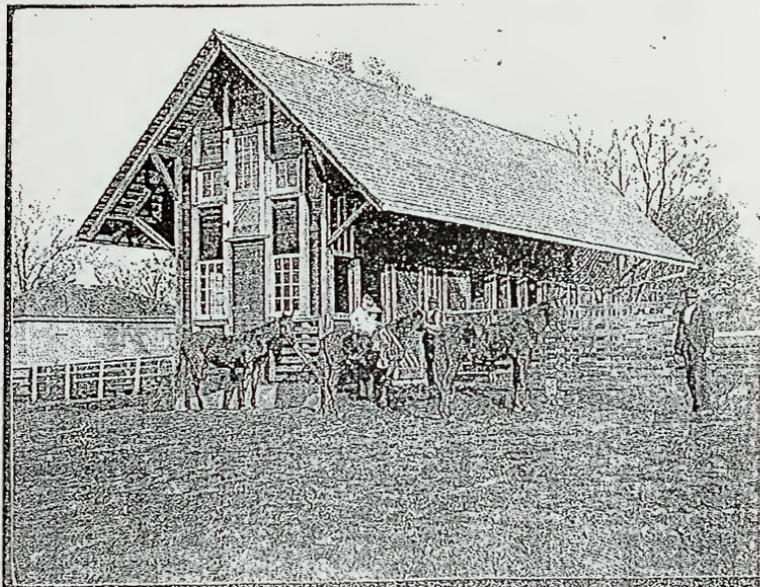




(Redcliffe160.tif)

Photograph of Katharine Hammond's wedding party on the steps of the main house of Redcliffe Plantation, April 1897. The slave quarters/garage building appears to be on the right side of the house. However, this building was still being used as a carriage house at the time of this photo. Source: State Park Service, Historic Photographs of Redcliffe, compact disk.





(stables.jpg)

Stables, southeast oblique, 1904. To the left of the stables is an undesignated building that appears to be similar in design to the two other extant slave quarters. Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #3 1875-1912.





(jsb3&friends.jpg)

Wash house/ well house, unknown elevation, 1900. Behind and to the right of the wash house there appears to be a building similar in design to the other slave quarters on the site. It is unknown, however, what the true nature of the rear building is. Source: J.S. Billings Scrapbook #3 1875-1912.

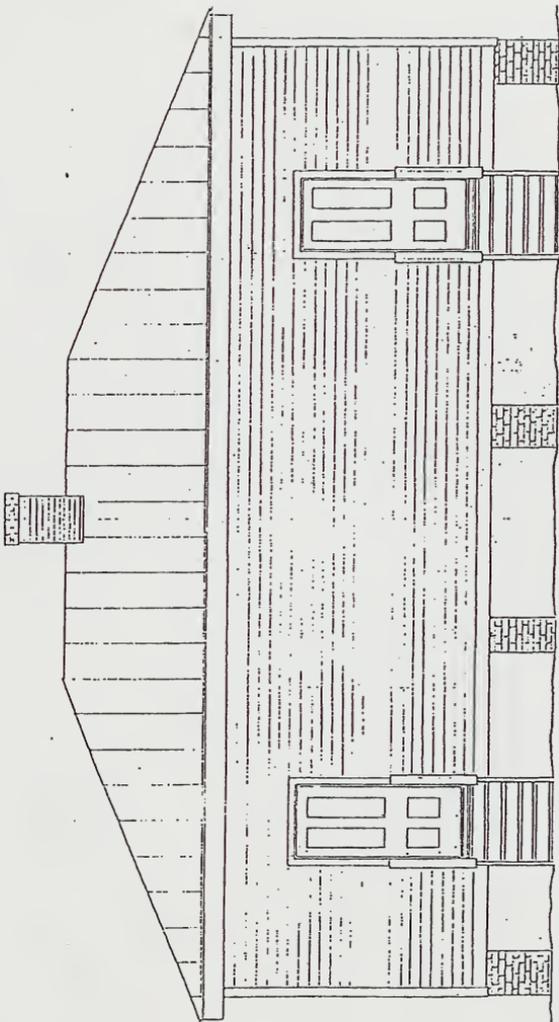


## Appendix 4: Drawings



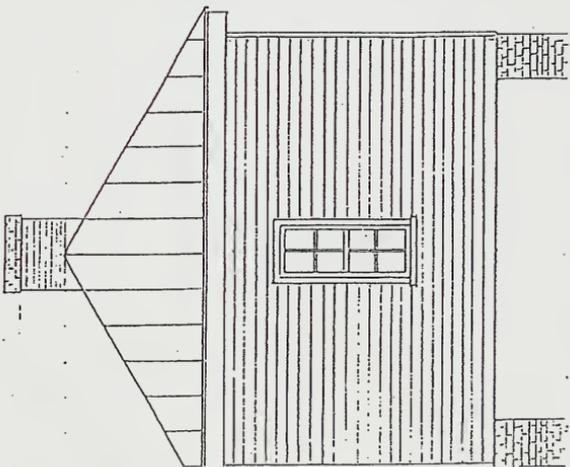
**Line Drawings and Floor Plans of Slave Quarters (Prepared by University of Georgia  
Students 1998)**



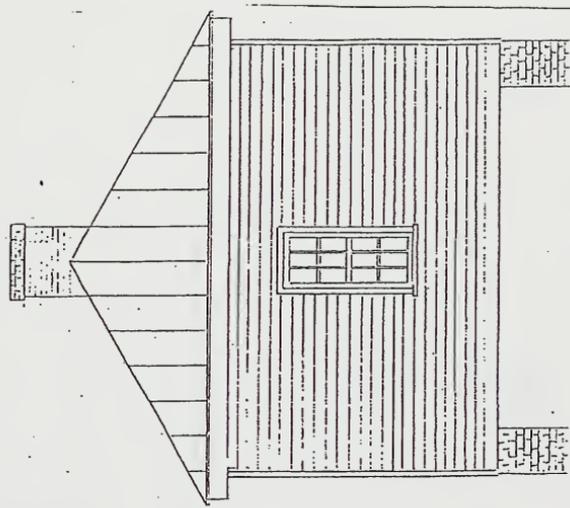


Slave Quarters, South Elevation





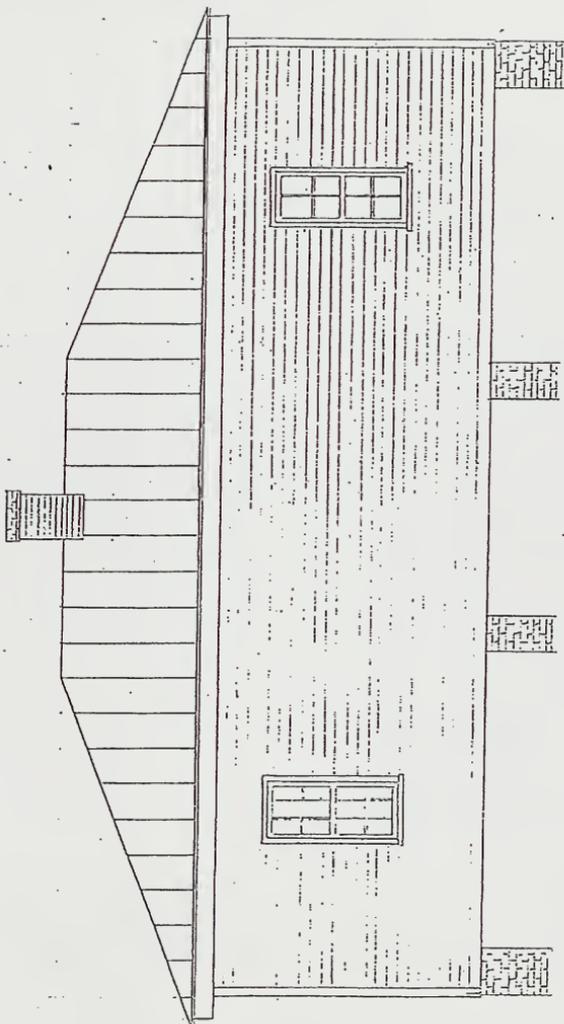
East Elevation



West Elevation

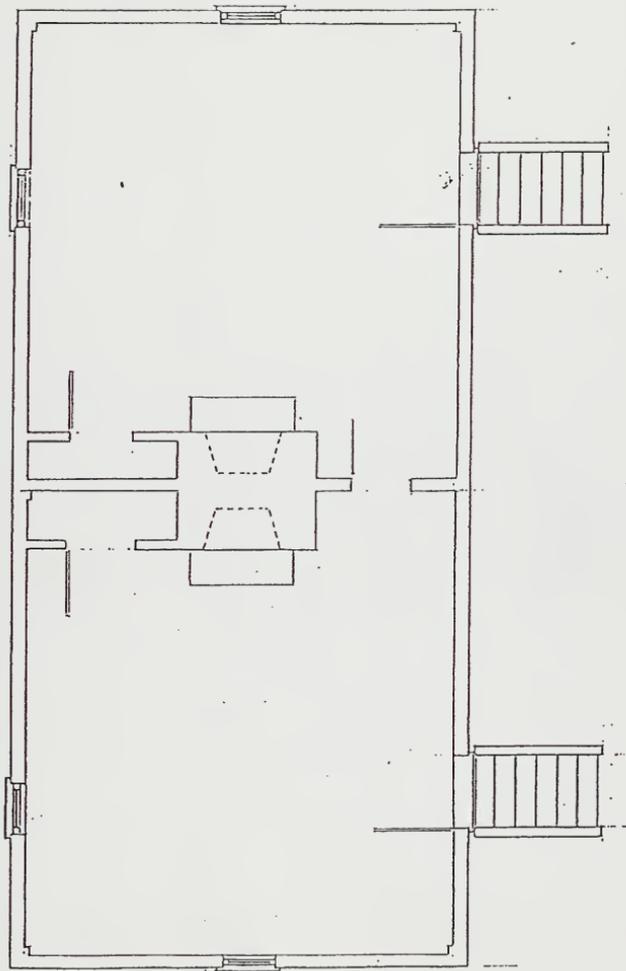
REDCLIFFE PLANTATION - Slave Quarters





Slave Quarters, North Elevation





Slave Quarters, Floor Plan

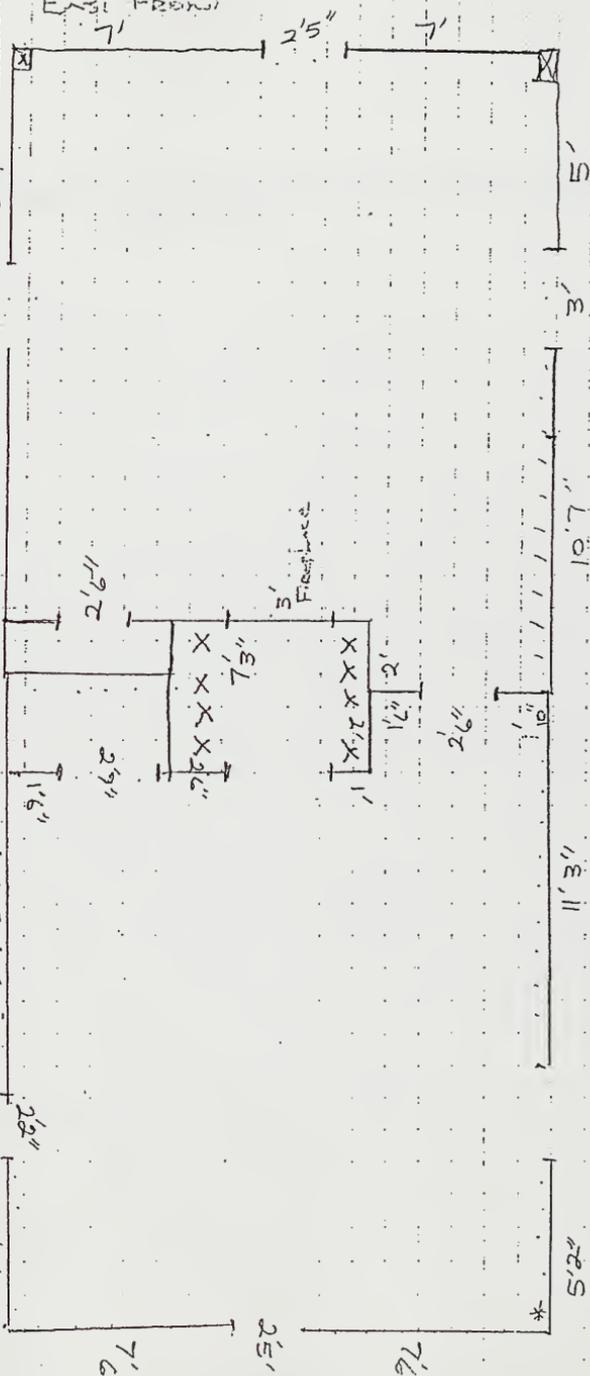


Lane QTR.

7/15/01

East Front

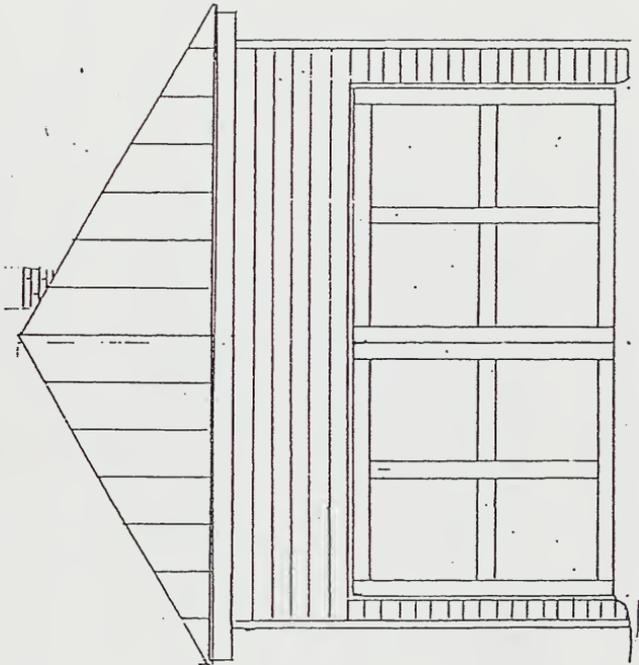
Lane Quarters





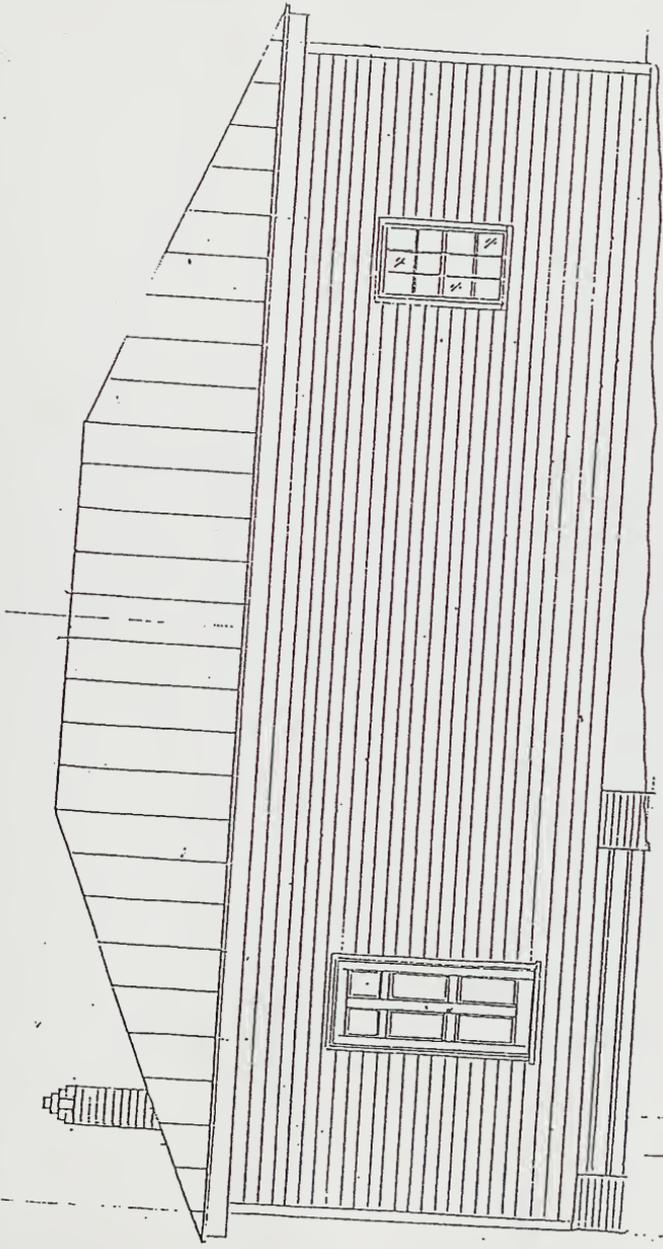
**Line Drawings and Floor Plans of Slave Quarters/Garage (Prepared by University of Georgia  
Students 1998)**





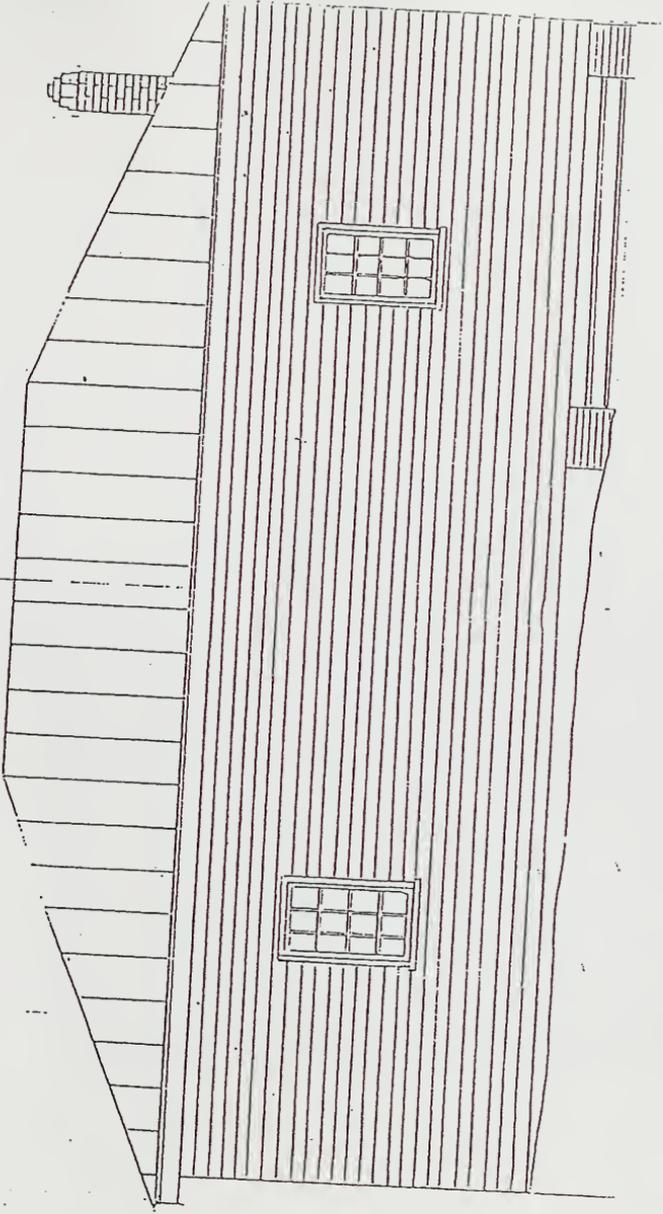
Slave Quarters/Garage, South Elevation





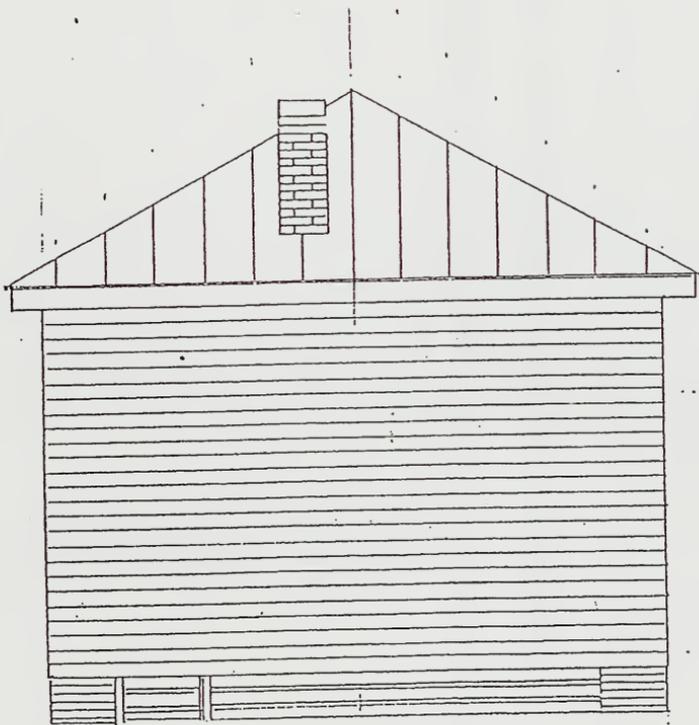
Slave Quarters/Garage, West Elevation





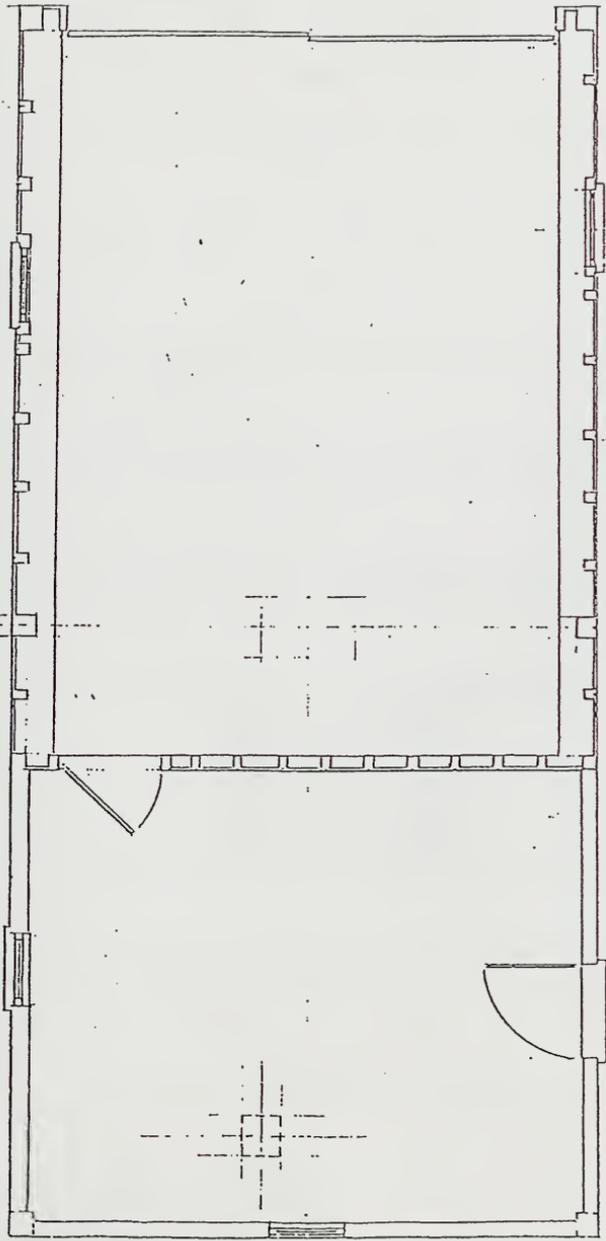
Slave Quarters/Garage, East Elevation





Slave Quarters/Garage North Elevation

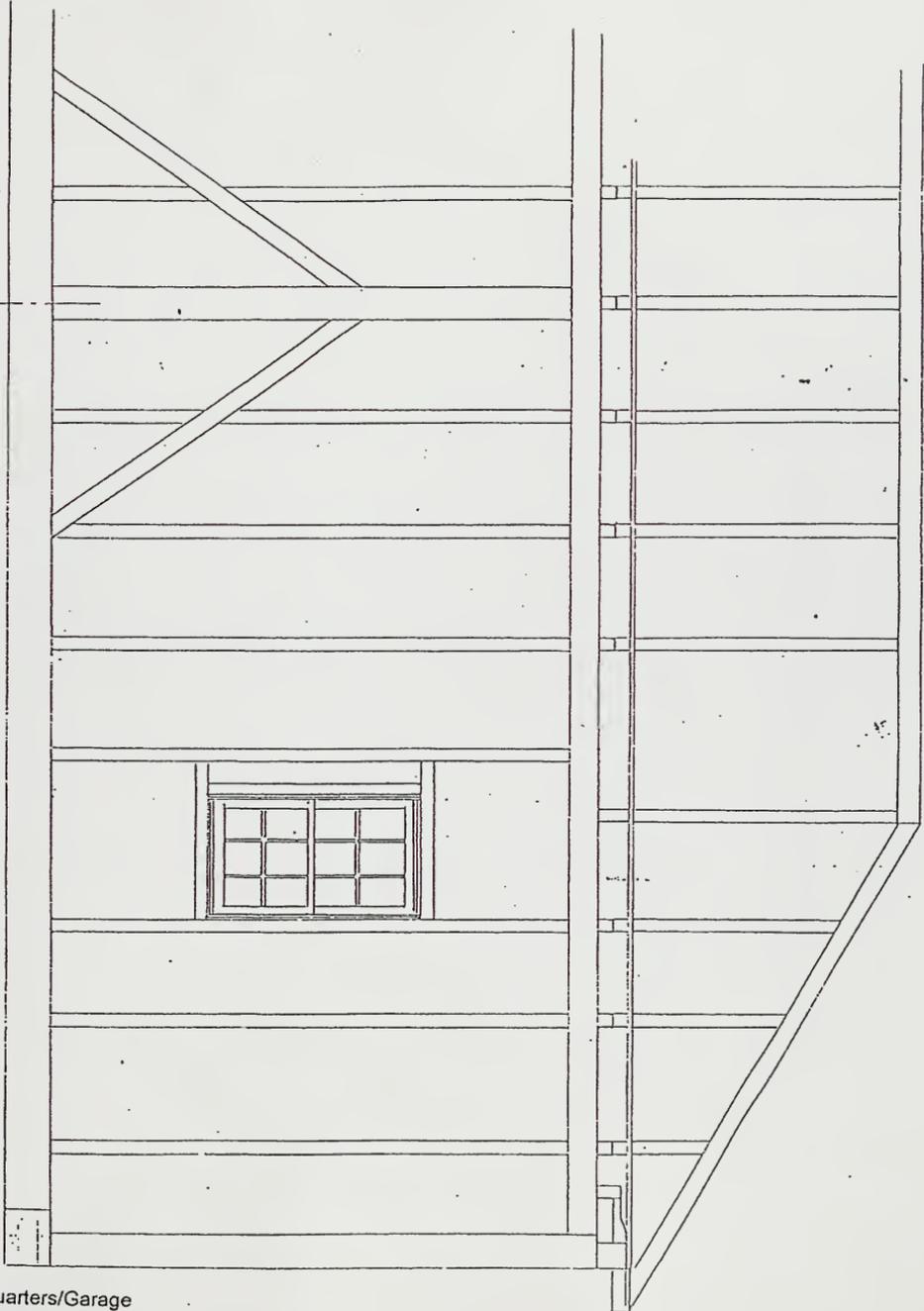




REDCLIFFE PLANTATION - Garage (former Slave Quarters)

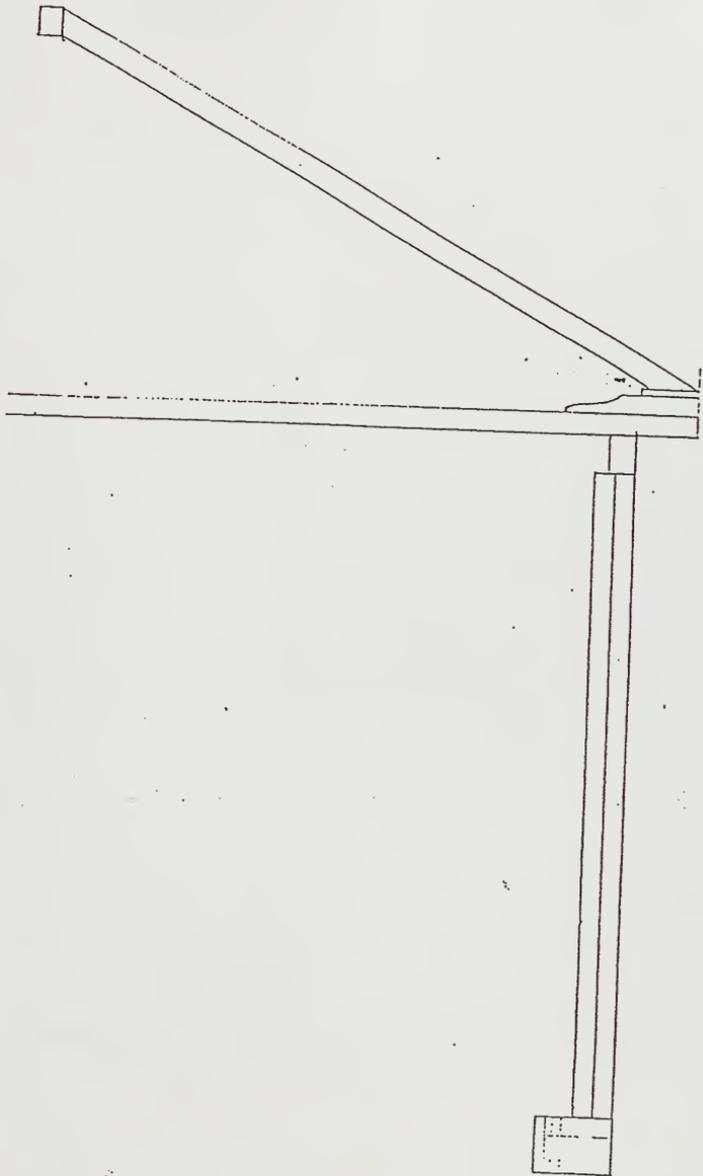
Floor Plan





ive Quarters/Garage





Slave Quarters/Garage



ROSSLIE BRIDGE

1 1/4"

3 1/2"

East Wall

13' 2"

855 SQUARE FEET?

East Wall  
14' 8"

West Wall  
14' 10"

3 1/2"

North Wall

Scale 1/4" = 6"



## Area Maps

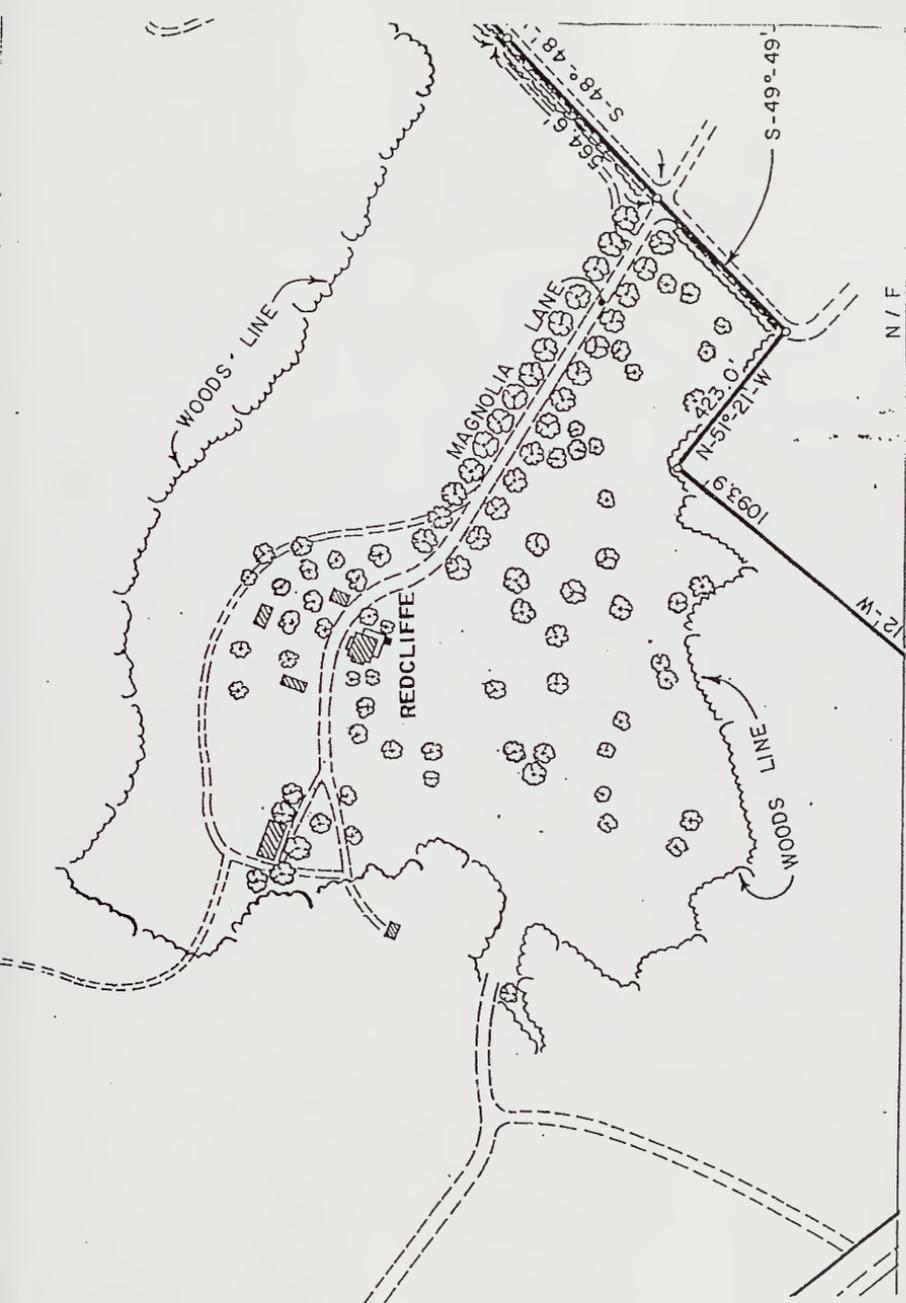




- Open
- Percans
- Pine
- Pine-Hardwood
- Plantation









## Appendix 5: Photography Logs



Photographer: McAbee/Stokes County: Aiken

Date: March 2002

Roll: A (photos on CD entitled Redcliffe Images;  
file name - Exterior)

Frame	Site	Elevation	Identification
A-10.tif	RC-27	Southeast	Corner pier
A-12.tif	RC-27	Northeast	Corner pier showing cement on brick
A-15.tif	RC-27	South	Front of Slave Quarters with east door open; west door closed
A-16.tif	RC-27	South	Center pier
A-17.tif	RC-27	South	Side view of west cabin steps
A-18.tif	RC-27	South	Front of building
A-19.tif	RC-27	South	Front view of west cabin steps; door to Slave Quarters closed
A-2.tif	RC-61	West	Side view; note concrete foundation for south room (garage)
A-20.tif	RC-27	East	Side view of east cabin steps
A-24.tif	RC-27	Southeast	View of big house and Slave Quarters
A-26.tif	RC-61	West	Front of building (garage doors)
A-29.tif	RC-61	West	Side of building; closed door and one window
A-3.tif	RC-27		Corner pier
A-32.tif	RC-61	North	Rear of building
A-34.tif	RC-27	Northeast	Oblique view of building
A-36.tif	RC-27	North	Rear of Slave Quarters; shutters of both windows closed
A-4.tif	RC-61	Northeast	Corner pier; note cement on brick
A-6.tif	RC-27	Southeast	Oblique view of building















Photographer: Freed

County: Aiken

Date: May 2002

Roll: D (photos on CD entitled Redcliffe Images;  
File name – May 02)

Frame	Site	Elevation	Identification
D-1.tif	RC-61	South room	Northwest corner
D-2.tif	RC-61	South room	West wall; open window; electrical box
D-3.tif	RC-61	South room	East wall; open window
D-4.tif	RC-61	South room	Ceiling, showing space where former chimney met rafters
D-5.tif	RC-61	North room	West wall; closed door
D-6.tif	RC-61	North room	East wall; open window; open door leading to south room
D-7.tif	RC-61	North room	View of ceiling and spot from which stovepipe hung
D-8.tif	RC-61	North room	East wall
D-9.tif	RC-61	South room	Southwest corner; electrical box
D-10.tif	RC-61	South room	East wall
D-11.tif	RC-61	South room	East wall
D-12.tif	RC-61	South room	East wall
D-13.tif	RC-61	South room	East wall
D-14.tif	RC-61	South room	Ceiling
D-15.tif	RC-61	South room	Ceiling
D-16.tif	RC-61	South room	Ceiling
D-17.tif	RC-61	South room	South wall w/ closed garage doors
D-18.tif	RC-61	South room	Close-up of south corner of hand-hewn sill







Photographer: Freed

County: Aiken

Date: May 2002

Roll: E (photos on CD entitled Redcliffe Images;  
File name – May 02)

Frame	Site	Elevation	Identification
E-1.tif	RC-27	West	Chimney base beneath building
E-2.tif	RC-27	Southeast	Inside of corner pier
E-3.tif	RC-27	Northeast	Inside of corner pier
E-4.tif	RC-27	Northwest	Inside of corner pier
E-5.tif	RC-27	Southwest	Inside of corner pier
E-6.tif	RC-27	West	Chimney base beneath building
E-7.tif	RC-27	East room	East wall; open window
E-10.tif	RC-27	East room	Northeast corner; open window
E-12.tif	RC-27	East room	West wall; partition wall with fireplace, closet door, and door to west room
E-13.tif	RC-27	East room	Northwest corner; closet
E-14.tif	RC-27	East room	West wall; partition wall with fireplace, closet door, and door to west room
E-15.tif	RC-27		Combination door knob and lock
E-16.tif	RC-27	West room	Southeast corner; open door leads to east room
E-17.tif	RC-27	West room	East wall/partition
E-18.tif	RC-27	West room	West wall; shuttered window
E-19.tif	RC-27	West room	Spool serving as doorknob to closet door
E-21.tif	RC-27	East room	Interior of closet
E-22.tif	RC-27	East room	Shuttered east window





