

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Beneventum Plantation House  
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number NE of Georgetown off County Road 431  not for publication  
city, town Georgetown  vicinity  
state South Carolina code 045 county Georgetown code 043 zip code 29440

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Georgetown County Rice Culture, c. 1750-c.1910  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Mary Watson Edmonds 8/11/88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
for George L. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amy Schlager 10/3/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Southern Colonial

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick pier with brick infill  
walls Wood, weatherboard

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roof Metal

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other Wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This building conforms to the general description under property type "Resources Associated with Plantation Community Life" and property subtype "Plantation Houses."

Exterior physical evidence (brick changes in the foundation, corner board ghost marks) and interior details (mantel and door treatments) clearly indicate that the front half of the main body of this house was constructed first and that the rear half was a later addition. The front portion dates from c. 1750; the rear half was added c. 1800. Further rear additions from the main block are probably early twentieth century additions. All of the main block of the house has integrity from the period of significance for the Georgetown County Rice Culture multiple property submission. Because the twentieth century alterations are at the rear of the house, they do not impair its registration.

This house has a more formal entrance than most of the other plantation houses included in the Georgetown County Rice Culture multiple property submission. The main entrance is centrally located and sheltered by a one-story portico which extends across the center two-thirds of the facade. The portico roof, with a central gablet, is supported by columns resting on brick bases. Curved steps lead up to the portico from each side.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1750 - c. 1870

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Gadsden, Christopher

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This plantation house is significant as one of the earliest extant main houses of the Georgetown County rice plantations and for its association with Christopher Gadsden. Beneventum was one of the earliest successful rice plantations in the area, and was owned by Gadsden, who built its main house c. 1750. Gadsden was a prominent statesman and soldier of the American Revolution, the originator of the "Don't Tread On Me" flag, and Federalist leader in the early national period. After his death in 1805, Beneventum was sold to John Julius Pringle, Attorney General of South Carolina from 1792 to 1808 and member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. At one time or another Pringle also owned White House and Greenfield, also on the Black River, and Arundel, on the Pee Dee River. The records of ownership after Pringle are incomplete. It is believed, however, that Beneventum was the plantation on the Black River at which Robert Pringle, a son of John Julius Pringle, produced 420,000 pounds of rice with 142 slaves in 1850. One of the significant later owners of the plantation was William M. Hazzard, who owned it from 1867 to 1883. In 1870 he produced 250,000 pounds of rice at Beneventum, an impressive amount so soon after emancipation. Hazzard's success in planting rice here led to his part in establishing the Georgetown Rice Milling Company in 1879 and his service as a director of the company.(1)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # SC-480
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

S.C. Department of Archives & History  
Columbia, SC

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	7
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6	6	1	6	6	0
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3	7	0	1	8	0	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Georgetown County Tax Map, District 2, Map 1006, Parcel 28, drawn at a scale of 1"=1000'.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the plantation house and its immediate surroundings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title J. Tracy Power, National Register Historian; Sherry Piland, Architectural Historian  
 organization S.C. Department of Archives & History date 15 September 1987  
 street & number P.O. Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8608  
 city or town Columbia state South Carolina zip code 29211

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National Park Service

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NOTES

(1) Alberta Morel Lachicotte, Georgetown Rice Plantations (Columbia: The State Printing Company, 1955; Fifth Edition, 1970), pp. 85-88; George C. Rogers, Jr., The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1970), pp. 278, 283, 465, 471; Walter B. Edgar and N. Louise Bailey, Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives: Volume II: The Commons House of Assembly, 1692-1775 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1977), pp. 259-263; N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives: Volume III: 1775-1790 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981), pp. 586-88. Agricultural Schedules, Ninth Census of the United States (1870), Georgetown County; Georgetown Rice Milling Company, Georgetown, S.C. 1880. (Charleston: Lucas and Richardson, Printers, 1880), pp. 2-3; Interview with Fred B. Lee, Beneventum Plantation, Georgetown, South Carolina, 29 July 1987.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Beneventum Plantation House  
(Georgetown County Rice Culture, c1750-c1910  
multiple property listing)  
Location of property: Georgetown County, South Carolina  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
Staff  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives and  
History

Additional information for each photograph follows:

1. East (main) facade, view looking northwest.  
June 1978 (field checked August 1987)
2. North facade, view looking south.  
August 1987
3. South facade, view looking north.  
June 1978 (field checked August 1987)
4. West (rear) facade, view looking east.  
June 1978 (field checked August 1987)