Fort Hill
The Beginning of a Legacy

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Fort Hill plantation, home of John C. Calhoun and later Thomas Green Clemson, enjoys a rich history with Clemson University, the State of South Carolina and the United States.

John C. Calhoun, former U.S. House of Representative and Secretary of War, served as the Vice President of the United States from 1825-1832. He later served as a U.S. Senator and Secretary of State.

John C. Calhoun married Floride Bonneau Colhoun in 1811 and their daughter Anna Maria Calhoun married Thomas Green Clemson in 1838. Following John C. Calhoun’s death in 1850, Clemson, a diplomat to Belgium and the first acting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, controlled and managed the plantation until his death in 1888.

Fort Hill was a working cotton plantation that included 1,100 acres, the mansion, kitchen, spring house and study. Additional buildings included barns, stables and slave quarters. Documenting the African-American experience at Fort Hill is an ongoing research project of the Department of Historic Properties at Clemson University.

Left: Thomas Green Clemson (1807-1888) who outlived his wife and two adult children is the founder of Clemson University. Right: Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson (1817-1875) was heir to Fort Hill Plantation.

Left: Nicknamed the “cast iron man”, John C. Calhoun (1782-1850) was known for his determination to defend the causes for which he believed. Right: Floride Bonneau Colhoun (1792-1866), wife of John C. Calhoun, was the daughter of United States Senator John E. Colhoun and niece of General Andrew Pickens.