

# Fort Hill Plantation

Home to Clemson University



Fort Hill Plantation



History

The Clemson University we know today got its start at Fort Hill, a beautiful antebellum plantation home and National Historic Landmark.

Fort Hill was first a four-room structure called Clergy Hall, built in 1803 as a residence for the Reverend John McElhenny. Clergy Hall sat on more than 1,000 acres of land and became one of several plantations owned by Vice President John C. Calhoun and his wife, Floride.

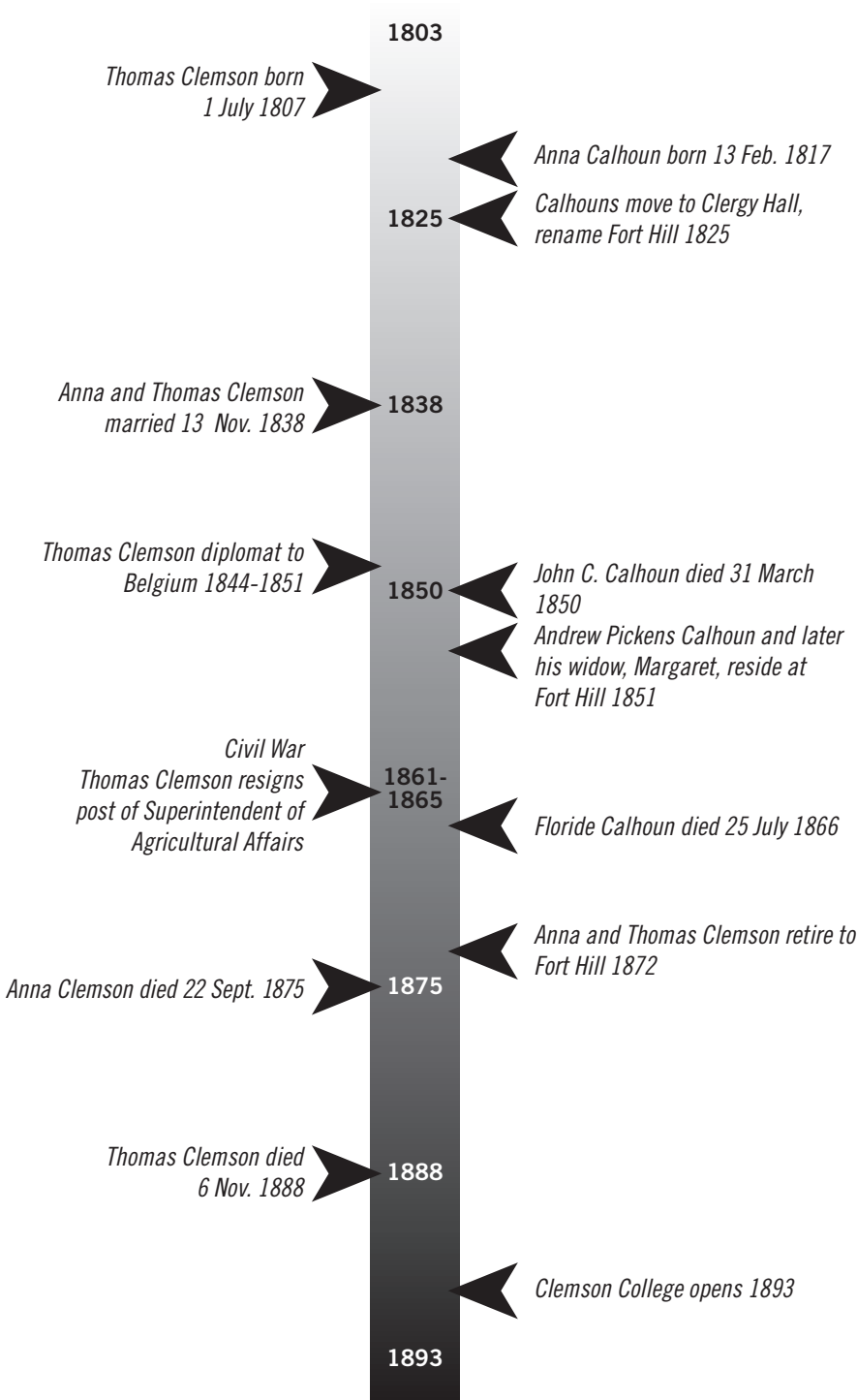
When the Calhouns moved into Clergy Hall in 1825, they renamed it Fort Hill and turned the humble house into a fourteen-room mansion.

The final owners of Fort Hill were Anna and Thomas Green Clemson, Calhoun’s daughter and son-in-law. It was the dream of these two to open a high seminary of learning on the grounds they called home.

Clemson willed the plantation to the state of South Carolina for the establishment of a college of agriculture and science. Upon his death in 1888, Clemson Agricultural College was founded.

Fort Hill remains a rich part of Clemson University’s history and is preserved and restored as a museum to display the lifestyles of the Calhoun and Clemson families.

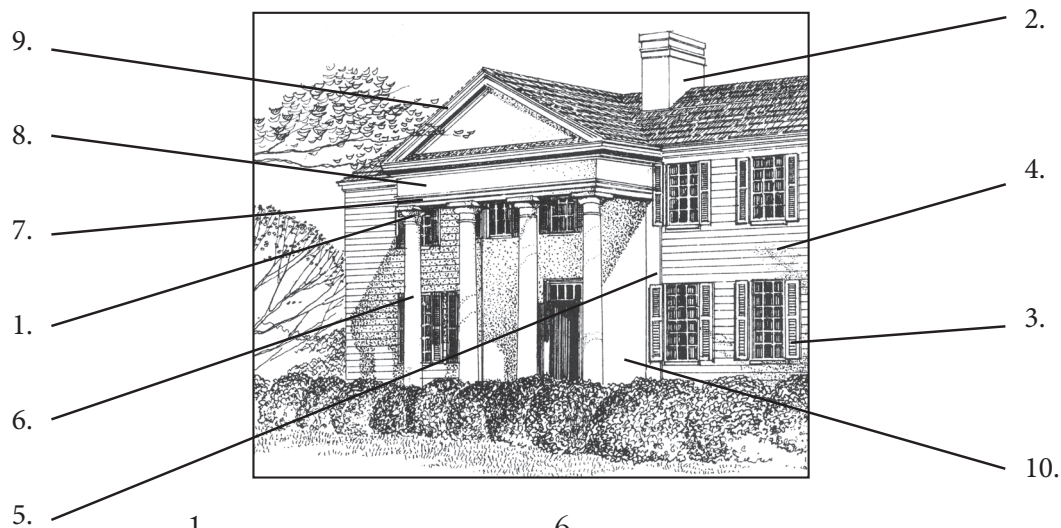
Fort Hill Timeline



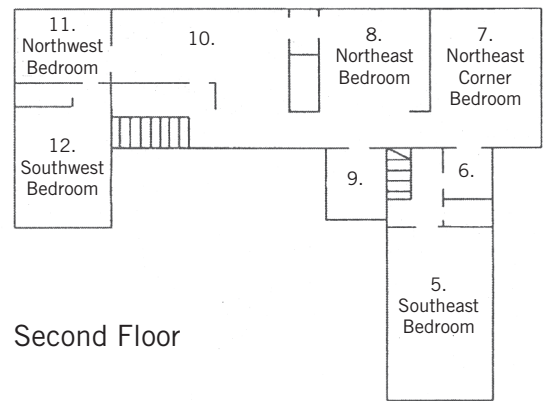
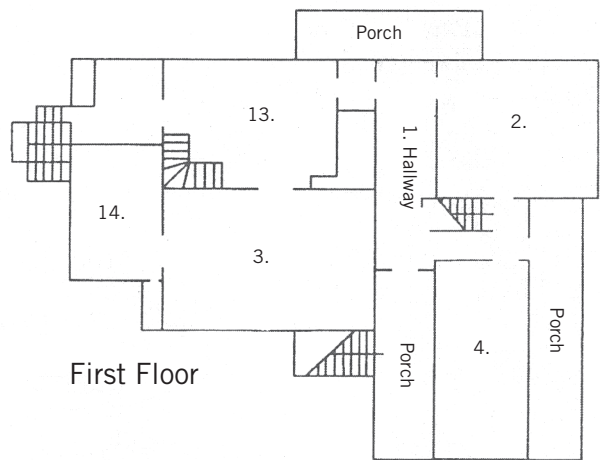
# What Style Is It?

Fort Hill is a combination of two architectural styles: Federal and Greek Revival. The Federal style characteristics include the transom windows over the front and side doors, the louvered shutters (3) and the gentle-sloping gable roof line. Characteristics of Greek Revival Style are the front-projecting portico porch (10), rear colonnade piazza or porch, the elaborate entablature made up of the cornice (9), frieze (8) and architrave (7) above the

porch, and the monumental columns (6) with Doric order capital (1) supporting the gable roof. Decorative features include false columns called pilasters (5). The house was constructed of local materials such as cedar shake shingles, wood clapboard siding (4) and stone chimneys (2). As was popular in the 1820s, the front doors are painted to look like mahogany veneer.



- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |



## Name That Room

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 2. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |

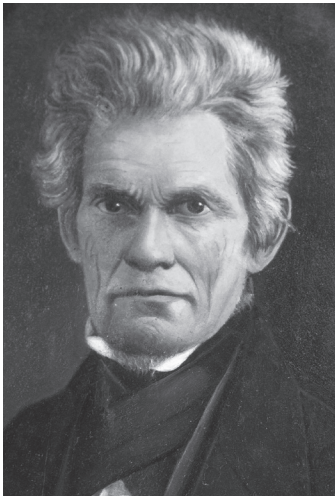


## John C. Calhoun

John C. Calhoun is the most well-known owner of the house and land that became Fort Hill Plantation.

Calhoun graduated from Yale in 1804 and from Tapping Reeve Law School in 1806. After serving as a member of the S.C. Legislature, Calhoun held several federal government positions over the next 40 years, including U.S. Representative, Secretary of War, twice as Vice President, twice as U.S. Senator and Secretary of State.

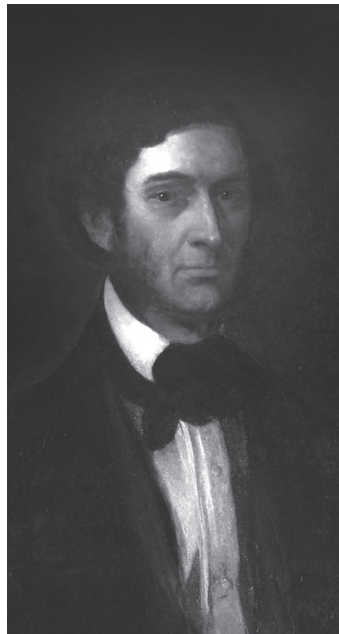
Calhoun and his wife Floride married in 1811 and had ten children with seven surviving to adulthood.



## Thomas Green Clemson

Thomas Green Clemson was a scientist, mining engineer, diplomat to Belgium under four U.S. presidents and the first secretary of agriculture. He married Anna Maria Calhoun at Fort Hill on November 13, 1838. They had four children, but only two survived to adulthood.

Clemson left his estate and fortune for the betterment of education in South Carolina and willed that Fort Hill "shall always be open for the inspection of visitors."



## African-Americans at Fort Hill

African-Americans were a vital force in the operation and economy of Fort Hill. Like many Southern planters of the time, Calhoun raised cotton as a cash crop using enslaved African-American labor to run his household and plantation. The Calhoun family owned approximately 60-80 skilled workers such as gardeners, seamstresses and carpenters in addition to agricultural workers and field hands.

The Calhoun slaves lived one-eighth of a mile from the mansion, in houses built of stone and joined together like barracks, with gardens attached and a large open space in front.

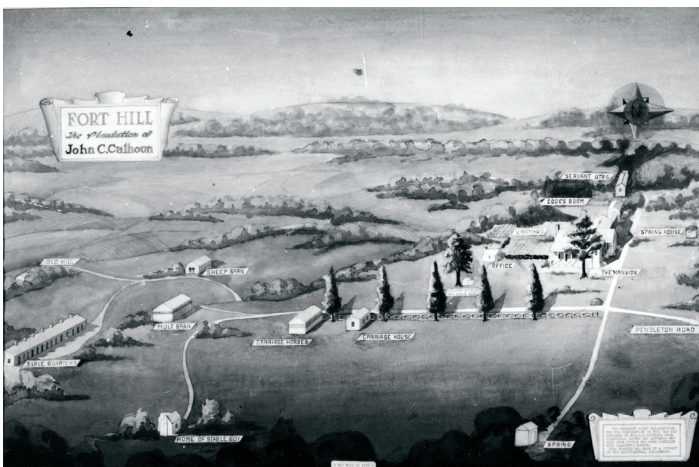
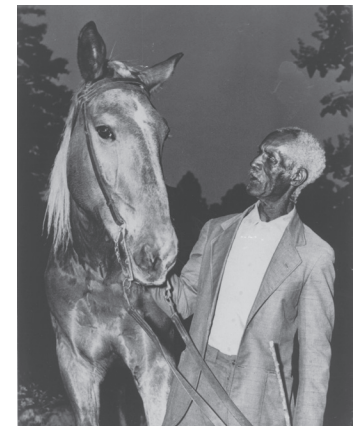
## Susan Clemson

Susan Clemson took care of Thomas and Anna Clemson's children when the family lived at Fort Hill. After the Civil War, she married Billy Richardson and moved near Saluda, S.C.



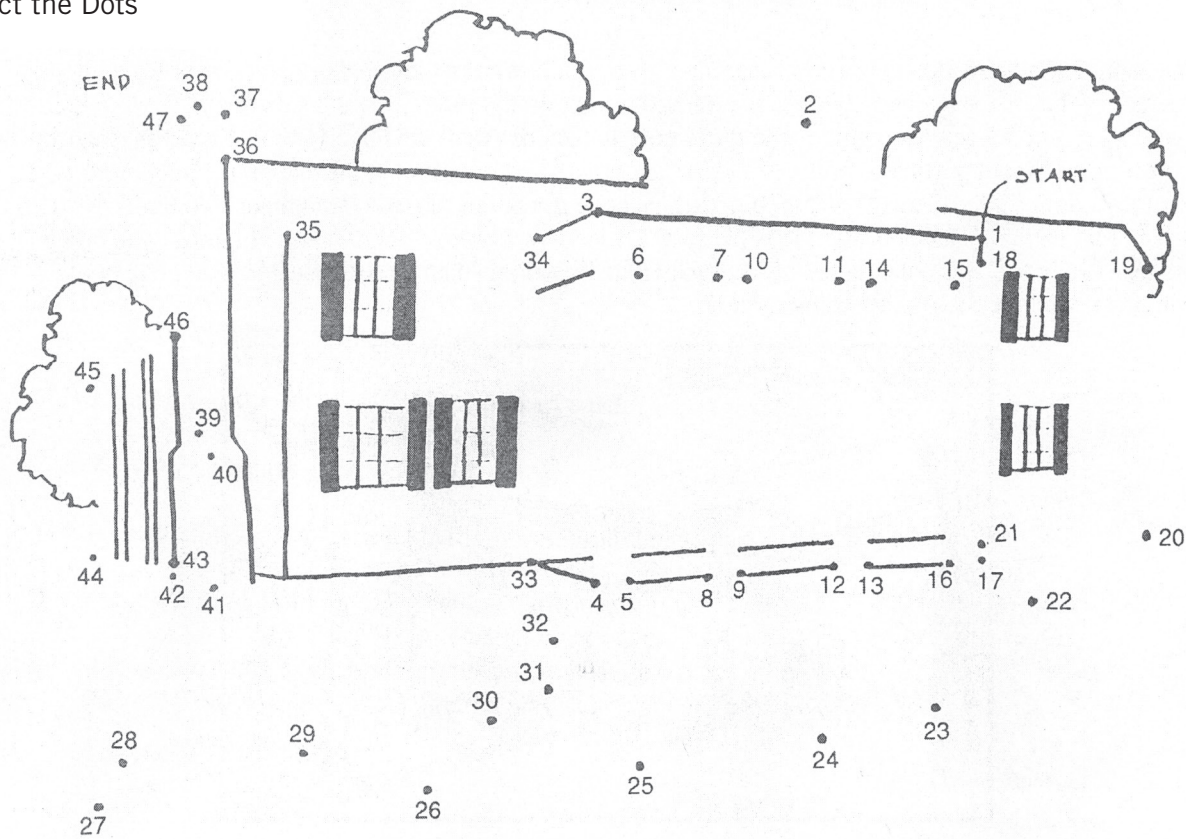
## William Greenlee

One of the Clemson family's employees was Bill Greenlee. He worked as a stable boy and carriage driver at Fort Hill. After Clemson's death he continued working for the college for 51 years.



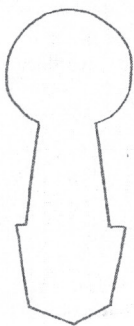
This is perhaps the earliest photograph of Fort Hill, circa 1871, and it shows an African-American woman holding a child. That child is believed to be Floride Isabella Lee, and she is being held by Marie Calhoun. Floride was the daughter of Floride Elizabeth Clemson and Gideon Lee.

### Connect the Dots



### What's This?

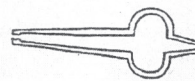
Circle the correct name of the object or person shown.



Banjo clock  
Lamp  
Bed warmer



Plow  
Boot scrape  
Hitching post



Fireplace tool  
Tweezers  
Key



Abraham Lincoln  
George Washington  
John C. Calhoun



Spoon  
Clock  
Bed warmer



Grandfather clock  
Birdhouse  
Casket



Cowboy hat  
Flower pot  
Hat tub



Calhoun and Clemson Family Game

- 1. What was John C. Calhoun’s profession?
- 2. Whom did Anna Maria Calhoun marry in 1838 at Fort Hill?
- 3. Whom do the two statuettes in the living room represent?
- 4. What type of bird is carved on the black couch in the parlor?
- 5. How many children did the Calhouns have?
- 6. What was the name of the African-American man who worked for Thomas G. Clemson as a boy?
- 7. How long is Thomas G. Clemson’s bed?
- 8. Who was the young slave girl who took care of the Clemson’s children?
- 9. What is the little white building behind the main house?
- 10. What is the name of the underground room outside the house that was used to refrigerate food?



Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson

SCORE

Player 1	Player 2



Floride Calhoun

- Answers
- 1. A lawyer and a politician
  - 2. Thomas Green Clemson
  - 3. John C. Calhoun and George Washington
  - 4. An eagle
  - 5. Ten (seven survived to adulthood)
  - 6. Bill Greenlee
  - 7. Seven feet long
  - 8. Susan Clemson Richardson
  - 9. John C. Calhoun’s study
  - 10. The springhouse

## Fort Hill Word Search

Find and circle the bold words and dates hidden in the puzzle to the right. The words are written forward, backward and diagonally.

**John C. Calhoun** – Vice President

**March 18, 1782** – John C. Calhoun's birthday

**Lawyer** – John C. Calhoun's profession

**Floride Calhoun** – John C. Calhoun's wife

**Fort Hill** – John C. Calhoun's home

**Fort Rutledge** – Historic fort

**Thomas G. Clemson** – John C. Calhoun's son-in-law

**Heirloom** – A valued possession passed down in a family

**U.S.S. Constitution** – The ship from which the sideboard was made

**Duncan Phyfe** – Furniture designer

**Banjo Clock** – Clock in foyer

**Piazza** – Outdoor plaza

**East Porch** – Porch on the east side of Fort Hill

**Beehive Oven** – Main fireplace

**South** – Area of the country where Calhoun lived

Z	L	G	9	M	F	I	U	F	S	P	Z	A	T	U	G	C	Z	O	M	6	1	J	Y
M	U	O	O	F	U	Z	E	I	D	I	R	Y	A	F	E	N	L	T	Y	S	A	W	L
A	H	S	O	T	O	5	T	F	N	A	S	M	M	I	J	A	N	J	1	4	K	1	X
C	H	V	I	L	Y	R	T	U	C	Z	Q	A	B	W	I	T	A	U	T	S	J	1	8
C	O	I	L	K	B	E	T	S	K	Z	B	X	P	N	O	A	L	N	V	1	O	V	K
J	B	L	5	W	E	L	I	H	F	A	C	B	O	S	N	1	8	0	2	9	H	M	W
K	A	D	C	N	D	D	L	B	I	D	W	L	R	S	H	T	P	T	O	N	N	A	C
H	N	L	X	A	6	R	Q	S	C	L	O	C	T	A	Q	P	O	G	O	T	C	F	U
N	J	C	T	H	O	M	A	S	G	C	L	E	M	S	O	N	L	O	R	N	C	M	S
U	O	Z	M	Y	B	L	O	C	N	R	E	V	T	T	H	K	I	C	V	U	A	I	S
O	C	X	T	F	N	4	3	R	7	3	2	4	Y	3	1	5	4	F	M	E	L	J	C
H	L	E	A	S	O	Y	E	F	O	O	1	U	N	M	O	O	L	R	I	E	H	C	O
L	O	B	T	S	V	H	O	Q	U	H	C	E	A	V	U	P	C	D	K	L	O	I	N
A	C	D	O	E	T	R	G	U	O	T	F	J	U	A	N	B	I	B	D	K	U	H	S
C	K	G	V	U	S	R	R	C	F	Y	T	P	Y	E	5	2	K	M	H	O	N	E	T
E	7	U	O	T	E	T	L	B	H	I	S	I	V	1	3	E	G	9	A	R	T	P	I
D	D	S	C	Y	E	A	O	P	C	U	E	O	M	C	I	K	N	I	L	E	A	N	T
I	N	A	W	I	S	U	N	Y	B	L	E	A	F	M	F	H	O	6	M	C	C	Z	U
R	U	A	N	T	O	A	B	D	O	V	L	E	T	S	A	U	C	E	Y	N	O	N	T
O	L	F	T	8	C	I	T	Y	I	D	O	O	E	A	S	T	P	O	R	C	H	C	I
L	U	Y	M	N	U	L	A	H	B	R	O	R	K	E	I	D	A	D	O	G	Y	M	O
F	H	E	U	O	Q	M	E	3	B	D	F	R	I	F	N	N	D	N	E	L	S	Z	N
G	I	D	O	T	Y	E	I	B	V	R	F	O	R	T	R	U	T	L	E	D	G	E	A
W	A	F	A	I	B	T	2	9	7	1	8	1	H	C	R	A	M	B	1	8	6	E	X

## TAKE THE TOUR

### Fort Hill

Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – noon and 1-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, 2-4:30 p.m.

### Hanover House

Saturday, 10 a.m. – noon and 1-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, 2-4:30 p.m.

To schedule group tours contact the:

Department of Historic Properties

Clemson University

Box 345615

Clemson, S.C. 29634-5615

864-656-2475

*[clemson.edu/about/history/properties](http://clemson.edu/about/history/properties)*

*[hisprop@clemson.edu](mailto:hisprop@clemson.edu)*

National Historic Landmark

National Register of Historic Places

Save America's Treasures Project

