

FAMILY DINING ROOM

This room was the kitchen for the original house and was later used as a warming kitchen before serving as a family dining room. Images include Calhoun's grandson Patrick Calhoun, who lived in the Calhoun Mansion in Charleston, and Susan Clemson Richardson, the first slave owned by Thomas Green Clemson.



NURSERY

The nursery contains the Calhouns' three-sided crib, a toy model of the U.S.S. Constitution and Anna Calhoun Clemson's doll bed. Martha Cornelia Calhoun used this room as her bedroom due to mobility issues.

SECOND FLOOR

SOUTHEAST BEDROOM

Andrew Pickens Calhoun's bedroom above the parlor displays the furnishings of his grandson who married Floride Isabella Lee Calhoun, the only grandchild of Thomas and Anna Clemson. The paintings are part of Thomas G. Clemson's European art collection and include a painting of Queen Victoria with her King Charles spaniels and a copy of Beatrice Cenci.



DRESSING ROOM

The dressing room is furnished with bathing necessities belonging to the Calhoun and Clemson families.

NORTHEAST CORNER BEDROOM

Patrick Calhoun's bedroom furnishings include the Clemsons' sleigh bed, a linen press, a copy of "Madonna and Child" by Mr. Clemson and an Old Master painting entitled "Virgin and Child" and the poem "Tasso in Prison."



NORTHEAST BEDROOM

John Caldwell Calhoun Jr.'s bedroom is furnished with an acorn bedstead and Mrs. Calhoun's bonnet chest. The bust is of Mars, the god of war. The paintings in the room include several images by Belgian landscape painter Louis Robbé and a painting of chickens by Mr. Clemson.



DRESSING ROOM

The dressing room contains a hat tub, sitz tub and Thomas Green Clemson's steamer trunk. The dressing rooms had no means of heating and could be used for storing trunks and luggage.



NORTH CENTRAL BEDROOM (CLEMSON BEDROOM)

Anna Calhoun Clemson's bedroom is furnished with the Clemsons' seven-foot walnut bed made by William Knauff. The painting over the mantel is Mr. Clemson's self-portrait. Photographs show Thomas and Anna Clemson in later years and their children, Floride and Calhoun, as adults.

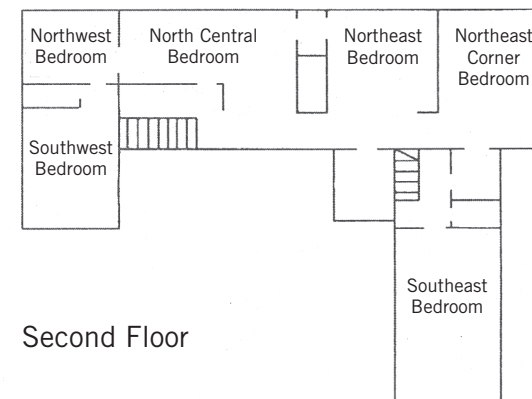


NORTHWEST BEDROOM

Originally a west dressing room, this room lacks a fireplace; however, it could be used as an overflow bedroom for James Edward Calhoun. Later, Susan Clemson, a young slave girl, slept in this suite to attend to the Clemson's children.

SOUTHWEST BEDROOM

William Lowndes Calhoun's bedroom contains a primitive antebellum painting of a young boy and a trio of paintings of peasant tavern scenes.



Second Floor



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FORT HILL TOUR ROUTE

Fort Hill was the homestead of South Carolina’s eminent 19th-century statesman John C. Calhoun during the last 25 years of his life. It is designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1,100-acre plantation was acquired by Calhoun circa 1825.

In 1888, Thomas Green Clemson – the son-in-law of Calhoun – bequeathed the Fort Hill plantation and cash to the state of South Carolina for the establishment of a scientific and agricultural college. His will specified that Fort Hill should be “open for the inspection of visitors” as a museum.

CLERGY HALL

The oldest part of Fort Hill was erected around 1803 by the Rev. James McElhenny, pastor of the nearby Old Stone Church, and was called Clergy Hall. The Calhouns enlarged the house to its present size and renamed it Fort Hill, honoring Fort Rutledge built on the land in 1776 after the defeat of the Cherokees and Loyalists at the Battle of Essenecca.

ARCHITECTURE

Fort Hill is an upcountry vernacular design with classical Greek Revival and Federal-period design elements. The major architectural features are the three Greek Revival-columned piazzas.

FORT HILL PLANTATION

The front gate to Fort Hill plantation was located near the point where Sikes Hall now sits on the Clemson University campus. Calhoun cultivated about 450 of his 1,100 acres in cotton with a workforce of some 70 to 80 enslaved Africans, the majority of whom were inherited.

GARDENS

The Calhouns had a garden developed just off the south portico for their daughter, Cornelia, who had mobility issues. A vegetable garden was located at the current site of the Trustee House, and an avenue of cedar trees lined the drive. A spring house is off the front lawn.

PLANTATION KITCHEN

The reconstructed kitchen is built on the site of the Calhouns’ original kitchen. The corner cabinet was made by an African-American carpenter and used by the plantation’s overseer. Beyond the kitchen originally stood weaving and laundry buildings.



PLANTATION OFFICE

John C. Calhoun’s desk on the right wall was used in his law office in Abbeville. The Victorian barrel-top desk was a gift when Calhoun was elected vice president. His first speech as a U.S. representative in favor of war against England was made from his legislative desk in the center. Calhoun’s plantation desk is where his famous “Fort Hill Address” was



penned on July 26, 1831, setting forth his doctrine of nullification and defining states’ rights.

SITE OF FIRST TRUSTEE MEETING

The first trustee meeting was held on May 2, 1888, on the Fort Hill lawn – under the Trustee Oak – to formulate the acceptance of Thomas Clemson’s will to establish Clemson College and draft its charter. The Second Century Oak today marks the site.

FIRST FLOOR

HALLWAY

The entrance hall contains a painting of John C. Calhoun by Chester Harding. The matching pair of Empire pier tables and the marble-top table were Calhoun’s, as were the banjo clock and mirror. The archway marks the first addition to Fort Hill.

STATE DINING ROOM

Adorning the formal dining room are portraits of John C. and Floride Bonneau Colhoun Calhoun in their later years by Belgian artist Eugene DeBlock around 1845. Mrs. Calhoun’s wedding portrait (c. 1811) is over the mantel. The Calhouns’ banquet table and chairs were designed by Duncan Phyfe around 1820. The *U.S.S. Constitution* sideboard was made of mahogany from the famous frigate, also known as “Old Ironsides,” and was a gift to Secretary of War Calhoun from U.S. Senator Henry Clay. Images of Thomas and Anna Clemson flank either side of the mantel.



MASTER BEDROOM

Calhoun’s master bedroom features a massive Empire bed and Piedmont wardrobe by William Knauff. The portrait over the bed is of Floride Calhoun (c. 1840) by James Bogle. Their daughter Cornelia Calhoun made the chintz appliqué quilt. This room was also a family sitting room and exhibits Mr. Calhoun’s recliner and traveling trunk.



PARLOR

Anna Maria Calhoun and Thomas Green Clemson were married in the parlor on November 13, 1838. Portraits include Thomas Clemson (James Ord c. 1830), right of the fireplace; Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson (J.J. Eeckhout c. 1848, Belgium), above the sofa; the Clemson children, Floride and John Calhoun (Eeckhout c. 1848), left wall. Busts include Cornelia Clemson (Hiram Powers c. 1858), left corner; and John C. Calhoun (Clark Mills c. 1845). A souvenir of Clemson’s diplomatic career is the red chair and footstool given to him by King Leopold I of Belgium. Clemson prized his Windsor chair, which had belonged to George Washington. The pianoforte belonged to Floride Calhoun, and the square grand piano was hers and later Anna’s.

