

Sunken Plantations

THE SANTEE COOPER PROJECT

Douglas W. Bostick



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WHITE HALL PLANTATION

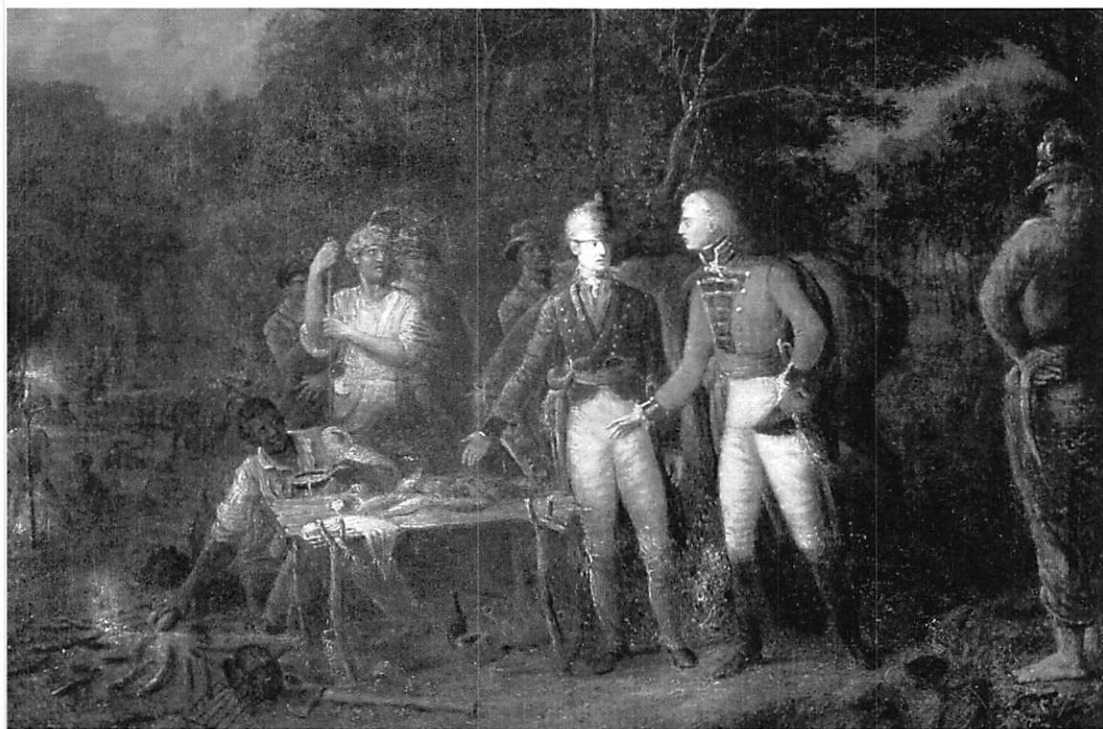
The grounds of White Hall Plantation were the site of a colonial-era tavern and inn on the Congaree Road. Located five miles northwest of Pinopolis, the plantation is thought to be named for an early owner, Blake Leay White, the commissioner for high roads in St. John's Parish in the 1770s.

Colonel Thomas Porcher, owner of neighboring Ophir Plantation, purchased White Hall and built the house for his son, Thomas. Thomas moved to White Hall joined by his bride, the daughter of Captain Peter Gaillard of the Rocks Plantation. Their daughter, Elizabeth, married Dr. Charles Lucas of Charleston and White Hall Plantation passed to the Lucas family. Prior to 1939, the plantation passed to the Cain family through marriage.

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White Hall Plantation was located south of Ferguson Swamp, between Hanover and Ophir Plantations. The house was two stories tall with a gable roof.



John Blake White, son of Blake Leay White, born at White Hall, was a prominent attorney and highly regarded painter. Four of his paintings, including this one of Francis Marion, hang in the U.S. Capitol. *Courtesy of the Collection of the U.S. Senate.*



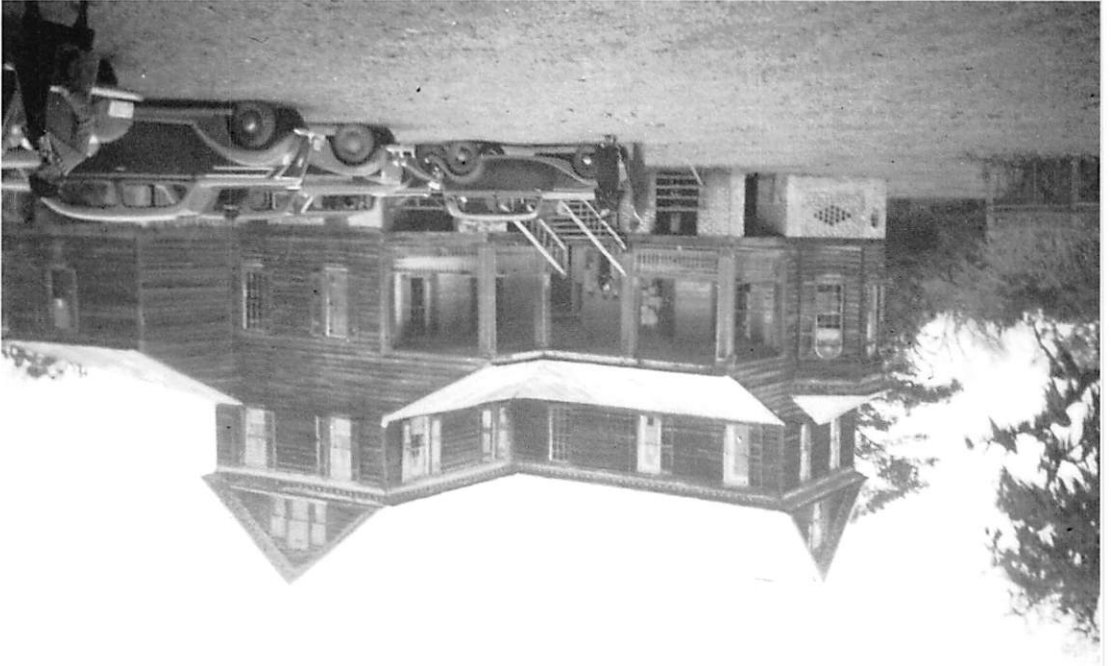
In 1854, Dr. Charles Lucas added a new wing and the piazza to the house. Lucas was careful to duplicate the fine detail of the original section when adding the new wing. A polygonal bay window was added to the end of the addition. *Courtesy of Mrs. Sarah Spruill.*



The White Hall property featured a pond near the house. The grounds were attractive and well kept.

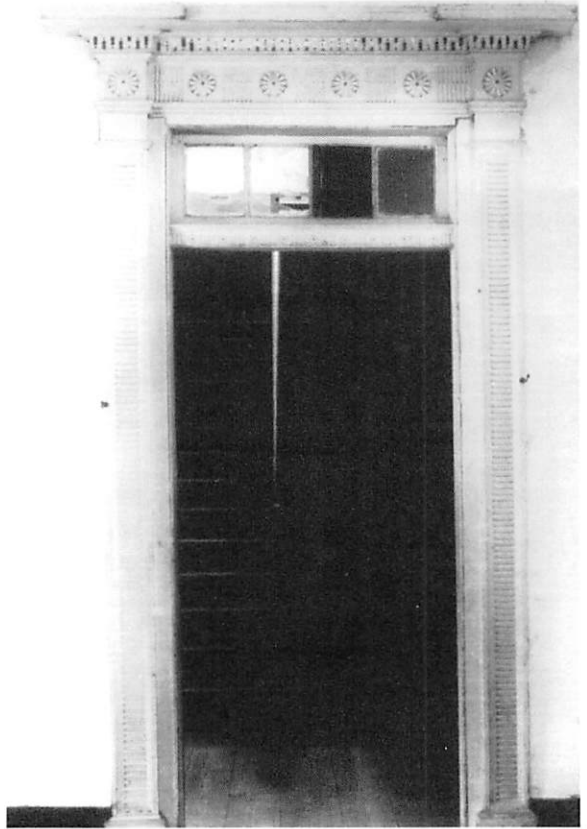


This view of the White Hall house from the front clearly shows the addition on the left side.



This photograph was taken while White Hall was hosting a meeting of the St. John's Hunting Club. Courtesy of Mrs. Sarah Spruill.

The White Hall front doors were more decorative than most plantation homes. The front doors never had locks, which was certainly a feature of a different era.

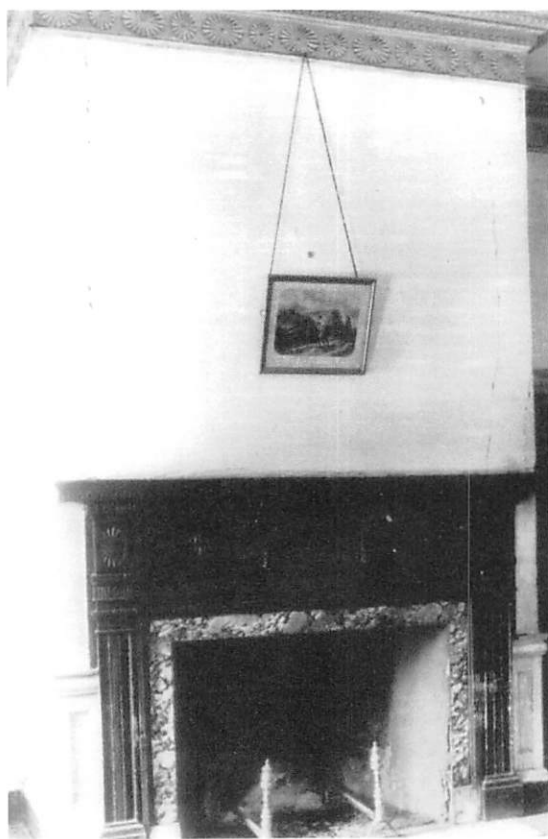


The entrance hall of White Hall Plantation clearly reminds the visitor of the great affinity the family had for hunting, perhaps only matched by their enthusiasm for horses and racing.

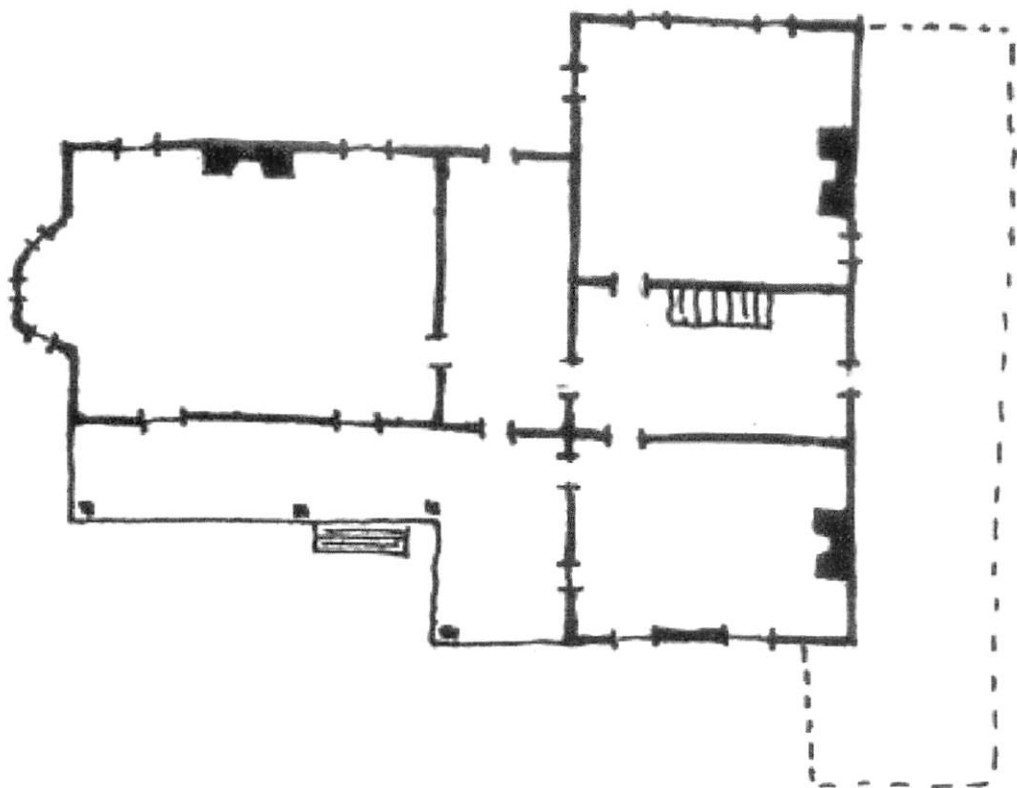




The dining room of White Hall was known for having the finest woodwork in the parish, thought to have been carved by the same craftsmen executing the great woodwork at Ophir. The fireplace facing is made of Pennsylvania blue marble.



The Cain family dismantled the woodwork and mantels before surrendering the house to the Santee Cooper Project. Many years later the dining room woodwork and mantels were purchased, and they are displayed at the Museum of Southern Decorative Arts in Old Salem, North Carolina.



Above: The floor indicates the traditional double front doors of the Pinopolis region. The 1854 addition to the house was used as a ballroom for entertaining.

Right: This photograph is of Lewis Lucas of White Hall Plantation preparing to leave for hunting. Lucas is mounted aboard Manila, a horse he trained for the hunt. Accompanying Lucas was his hunting dog, Jack. *Courtesy of Mrs. Sarah Spruill.*



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This photograph is of Henry Ravenel Lucas at White Hall Plantation preparing for a ride. Henry was the son of Lewis and Florence Lucas. *Courtesy of Mrs. Sarah Spruill.*