

Sunken Plantations

THE SANTEE COOPER PROJECT

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HANOVER PLANTATION

In 1688, the Lords Proprietors granted a French Huguenot immigrant named St. Julien three tracts of land in Carolina. In 1716, a grandson, Paul St. Julien, built a home and named the plantation Hanover in honor and thanks to the House of Hanover, which had come to the British throne. The St. Julien family and other French Huguenots were eternally grateful to the British throne, which had befriended the French refugees after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

Hanover Plantation house, with the house at North Hampton, was the oldest remaining house in St. John's Parish by seven decades. The blend of French and English construction techniques is unique in the historic homes extant in the United States. The house has many interesting and unique features. The north foundation was constructed with gun-slots for defense.

In 1750, Henry Ravenel married Mary de St. Julien and moved to Hanover Plantation the next year. The plantation remained in the Ravenel family for the next 188 years. Two members of the family, brothers Stephen and Daniel Ravenel, both served as secretary of state for South Carolina in the early nineteenth century.

In 1939, when Santee Cooper acquired the Hanover property, the plantation was owned by a syndicate led by J. Russell Williams of Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

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In 1939, when surveyed, the Hanover house was surrounded by unkempt fields and encroaching woodlands. The house was as neglected as the grounds. When the house was dismantled in 1939, it was discovered that everything from the frame to the flooring to the shingles was made of native cypress. *Courtesy of Mrs. Sarah Spruill.*

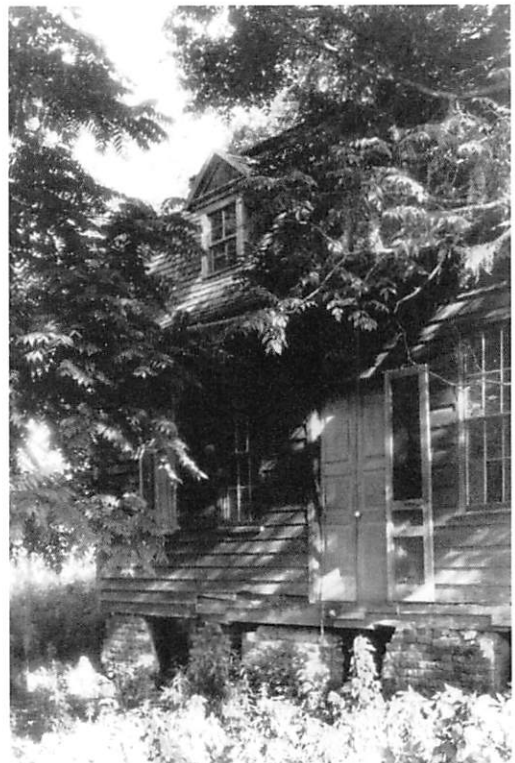


The home's character reflected the French influence introduced by the St. Julien family. The U.S. Department of Interior reported that "no other 18th-century examples of French provenance are known in this country, leaving the Hanover house of national historic importance."⁵

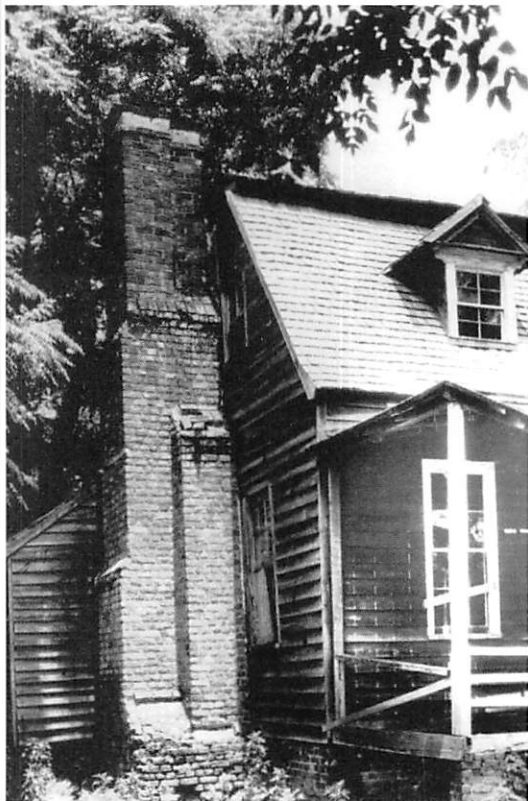


Above: The house was constructed of wood, entirely cypress. By 1939, the original trim woodwork inside had disappeared. Waterman felt that the one-and-a-half-story house with the full basement gave Hanover a “medieval character.”

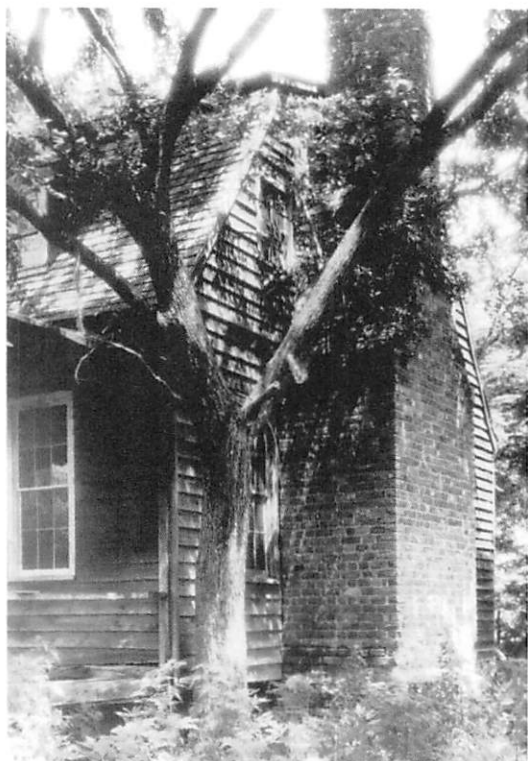
Right: The rear entrance was a double door featuring two vertical panels with a square panel in the center. This design was typical of the period of construction.



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The two end chimneys attracted much attention when surveyed, each featuring three flues, one from each story. The chimneys were built of multicolored plantation brick and assembled with a mortar made with marl mixed with shell.



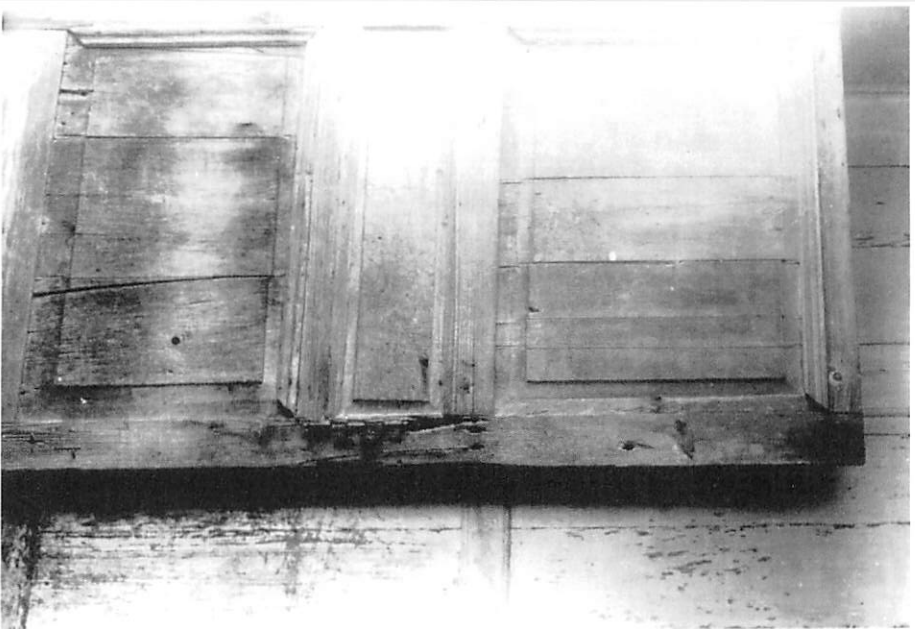
A band of stucco on the top of the chimney bore the inscription "Peu a Peu." This is taken from an old French proverb, "Peu a peu l'oiseau fait son nid," meaning, "Little by little the bird builds its nest."



The mantels in the front rooms are later additions or replacements, dating from about 1800. The mantel design is certainly simple compared to the nineteenth-century houses in St. John's Parish.

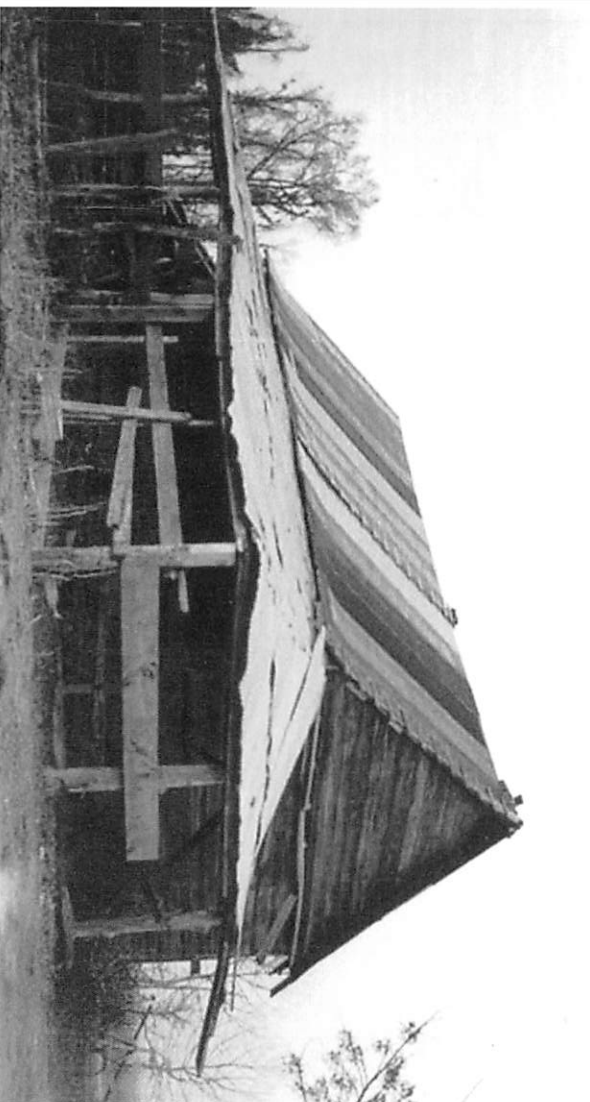


The interior walls are made of vertical boards affixed to the ceiling and floor. The horizontal boards were added to stabilize the vertical sheathing.



Left: The front door, four feet two inches wide, features a paneled French style. Waterman reported that this door was “unique in this country and so completely French in character as to be indistinguishable from a typical French door.”

Below: The barn was the only remaining outbuilding left on the plantation by 1939. Being of no particular historic or architectural importance, it was destroyed once Santee Cooper acquired the plantation. *Courtesy of the Library of Congress*





The Hanover house was saved and reconstructed at Clemson University in Upstate South Carolina. The house was completely restored and opened in 1962. In 1994, the eighteenth-century home was relocated to the campus's Botanical Garden.