

Fort Hill

Tour guide to the home of John C. Calhoun & Thomas Green Clemson

LANDSCAPE

12 *Cornelia's Garden*

On these grounds, you can catch a glimpse of the grounds in terms of landscaping. Items of note include:

- "Spirit of Cornelia" statue.
- Sundial.



13 *Study*

Outside the home in the back is the study. The highlights are John C. Calhoun's vice presidential desk on the right side of the hearth and senate chair on the left side. Other items include:

- John C. Calhoun's legislative desk, in the center of the room, was used at his law office in Abbeville, S.C.
- The plantation desk is on the left wall.

The first Board of Trustees meeting for Clemson University was held under the original Trustee Oak in the shadow of Fort Hill.



14 *Detached Kitchen*

This reconstructed kitchen sits where the original was connected to a breezeway. Beyond this space would have been weaving and laundry buildings for making and washing clothes. Today, those sites are home to an archaeological excavation site that also included a smokehouse and an enslaved cook's house.



8 *Susan Clemson Bedroom*

This room was originally a dressing room but later served as the bedroom of Susan Clemson, a young enslaved woman, who would sleep in the room to attend to the Clemsons' children. It was also the bedroom of the Calhouns' fourth son, James Edward. Items of note include:

- Replica of Susan Clemson's dress seen in the pictures of her throughout the house.
- Collection of paintings.

9 *William Lowndes Calhoun Bedroom*

This small bedroom features a portrait of a boy by an unknown artist above the mantle that was part of Thomas Clemson's collection and included with the rest in his will. It also is home to three paintings by Charles Karel Ferdinand Venneman:

- "The Quarrel."
- "The Reconciliation."
- "Two Men Smoking."



10 *Martha Cornelia Calhoun Nursery*

Attached to the Calhouns' bedroom, this small room served as a nursery for the young children of the home, including Martha Cornelia Calhoun. Items that would have originally been a part of the room are:

- Three-rail crib.
- Three-quarter sized canopy bed.
- Doll bed.
- Dresser.

11 *Family Dining Room*

This room was the kitchen for the original house when it was Clergy Hall. Original items can be found throughout this room, along with their significance to Fort Hill.



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Department of
HISTORIC PROPERTIES



Throughout the home, look for QR codes like these near room doors. Each will provide audio information on the history of the room and its place in Clemson's history.

Follow along and enjoy a glimpse into Thomas Green Clemson's past and a greater understanding of the University's beginnings.



Residence of John C. Calhoun, at Fort Hill.

Fort Hill is the historic home of Clemson University founder Thomas Green Clemson and his wife, Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson. Fort Hill was a significant part of Clemson's life for nearly 50 years. As son-in-law to former United States Vice President John C. Calhoun and his wife, Floride Colhoun Calhoun, Clemson would turn his scientific study to the soil and a lifetime of agricultural endeavors. Calhoun aided in Clemson's career when, as secretary of state, he submitted Thomas Clemson to a diplomatic post in Belgium. Clemson also aided Calhoun with his gold mining efforts in Dahlonega, Georgia. Clemson would later purchase a plantation, own enslaved Africans and serve as an officer in the Confederacy during the Civil War.

The home and land were acquired by Calhoun in 1825, then willed to Anna, who eventually left it to her husband. Clemson bequeathed Fort Hill and the surrounding property to the state of South Carolina for the establishment of an institution of higher education. The home was originally the clergy residence for what is now Old Stone Presbyterian Church. Ten additional rooms and more than 1,000 acres were added by the time Calhoun took ownership in 1836. In addition to the dwelling house, the plantation included barns, stables, a grist mill and quarters for some 70-80 enslaved African laborers.

Upon his death in 1888, Clemson's will specified that the land be given to the state for what would become Clemson College and, in 1964, Clemson University. He also mandated the Fort Hill home be maintained and remain "open for the inspection of visitors" as a museum.



1 State Dining Room

This formal dining area would have seen political dignitaries and special guests for much of the 19th century. Those items original to the house include:

- Serving China and silverware tureens.
- Banquet table and chairs.
- Coffee urn.
- Portraits of the Clemsons.
- The U.S.S. Constitution sideboard made from mahogany from the famed frigate known as "Old Ironsides."



2 Floride Colhoun & John C. Calhoun Bedroom & Sitting Room

This master bedroom was an evening sanctuary for John C. and Floride Calhoun and would have been used as a sitting room and bedroom. Attached is the children's nursery. Original items include:

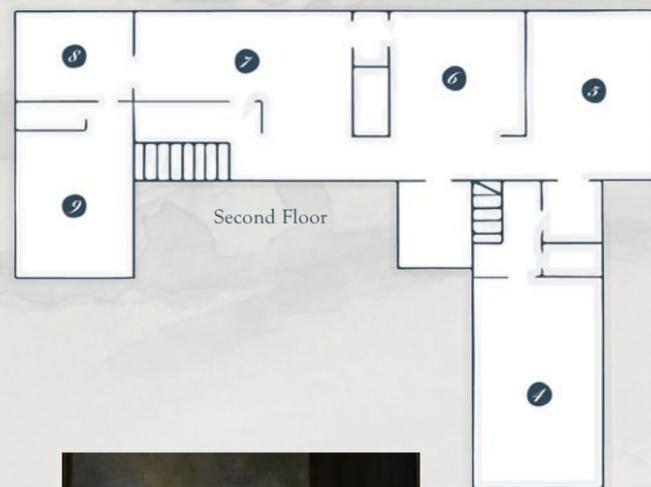
- Wardrobe.
- Recliner.
- John C. Calhoun's travel trunk.
- Cornelia's quilt.



3 Parlor

Intended for entertaining and evening sabbaticals, the parlor of Fort Hill is filled with history, including the place where Anna and Thomas were married in 1838. Treasured original pieces adorn the room, from portraits and busts to the furniture once used by Calhoun, Clemson and even founding father George Washington. Those original items include:

- Portraits of Thomas Clemson, Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson, Floride and John C. Calhoun and the Clemson children.
- Red chair and footstool gifted by King Leopold I of Belgium.
- Windsor chair once owned by George Washington.
- Square grand piano.
- Saw fish blade.
- Pianoforte.



4 Andrew Pickens Calhoun & Margaret Green Calhoun Bedroom

Among this bedroom's original items are furnishings of Floride Isabella Lee Calhoun, the only grandchild of Thomas and Anna Clemson, and her husband, Andrew Pickens Calhoun II, who were cousins. Other originals include:

- Pieces from Thomas Clemson's European art collection.
- Painting of Queen Victoria with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

5 Patrick Calhoun Bedroom

This room exhibits the bedroom for the Calhouns' son – and West Point graduate – Patrick. It's adorned with original paintings by Thomas Clemson including:

- "Madonna and Child."
- "Adoration of Magi."
- Portrait of Baker Clemson.



6 John Caldwell Calhoun Jr. Bedroom

This bedroom is furnished, interpreting the life of son Dr. John C. Calhoun Jr. Across the hall, note the dressing room with Thomas Green Clemson's personal travel trunk. The room features original pieces such as:

- Original painting of chickens by Thomas Clemson.
- Bust of Mars, god of war.
- Collection of paintings by Belgian artist Louis Robbe.
- Bonnet chest.



7 Anna Maria Calhoun & Thomas Green Clemson Bedroom

This bedroom is central to the upstairs, with doors that lead to bedrooms on either side. Across the hall was the dressing room, which held Thomas Green Clemson's travel trunk as well as bath items. This room also has many items that belonged to the Clemsons, including:

- "Self Portrait" by Thomas Green Clemson.
- Clemson bed.
- Bedside chairs.
- Anna's sewing machine.
- Castle paintings above bed.