

10-B Townpark Lane
Charleston, SC 29412-2568
June 21, 1999

Historic Charleston Foundation
40 East Bay Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Ref: Freedman's Cottage, 4-6 Desportes Court

Dear Mr. Poston:

Please allow me to solicit your support for a grant that I am pursuing through the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The project will involve the stabilization and restoration of a vernacular cottage on 4-6 Desportes Court, in the city of Charleston. It is one of the few remaining intact dwellings of its kind in the Radcliffboro neighborhood. And as such, I am convinced that its significance will be worth the effort.

Pursuant to the requirements of any South Carolina State Development Grant project, be assured that all restoration will meet compliance with the guidelines of the Secretary of Interior's "Standards for Historic Preservation Projects."

Permit me to add that, beyond my own archival research and the obvious architectural significance of the building, there is a hauntingly poignant story here. This cottage was once home to men and woman newly liberated from bondage. And if properly restored, it will continue to stand as a reminder that slavery was not just about economics or politics or even abstract questions of morality, but essentially about individuals who traded their shackles for America's most precious gift, freedom.

Your written expression of support should be returned to me at the above address by June 28, 1999. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hollis Rooke Mays
(843) 795-7274