



# HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

51 MEETING STREET

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

December 7, 1984

Mrs. Nancy Merriwether  
South Carolina Department of  
Archives and History  
P. O. Box 11669  
Capital Station  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mrs. Merriwether:

Enclosed is a preservation certification application for 15  
Legare Street.

I am enclosing two copies of maps locating the property within  
the Old and Historic District of Charleston along with two copies  
of pertinent photographs.

The Feiss-Wright survey map rated 15 Legare Street at category 1,  
Exceptional. As you can see, the owner of this property is applying  
for certification in order to donate a conservation easement.

From documentary evidence, the building was constructed c.1772-1773.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact  
me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan H. Poston  
Director of Programs

JHP:pfg

Encl:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB Approved  
No. 1024-0009  
Expires 8/31/86

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION  
PART 1 - EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Use typewriter or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of property: THE JOHN FULLERTON HOUSE  
Address of property: 15 Legare Street  
City Charleston County Charleston State S. C. Zip Code 29401  
Name of historic district: THE OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICT OF CHARLESTON, S. C.  
☒ National Register district ☐ certified state or local district ☐ potential historic district

2. Check nature of request:

- ☐ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for the purpose of rehabilitation.  
☒ certification that the structure or building and, where appropriate, the land area on which such a structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.  
☐ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.  
☐ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.  
☐ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.  
☐ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Authorized project contact:

Name JONATHAN H. POSTON, Historic Charleston Title Director of Programs  
Street 51 Meeting St. Foundation City Charleston, S. C.  
State                      Zip 29401 Telephone Number (during day): 723-1623

4. Owner:

Name MR. AND MRS. JAMES CARR  
Street 15 Legare Street City Charleston  
State S. C. Zip 29401 Telephone Number (during day):                     

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the above-named property.

Owner's Signature James E. Carr S.S. [REDACTED] Date 12/12/84  
Hempel S. Carr S.S. [REDACTED]  
Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number                     

NPS Office Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Preservation Certification Application - Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

- ☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.  
☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.  
☐ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary Determinations:

- ☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.  
☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.  
☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.  
☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

## THE JOHN FULLERTON HOUSE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

NPS Office Use Only

Property Name

15 Legare Street, Charleston, S. C. 29401 PART 1

Project Number:

Property Address

Mr. and Mrs. James Carr

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

James E. - [REDACTED] Temple - [REDACTED]

## 5. Description of physical appearance:

This is a 3½ story, Georgian Charleston single house, on high brick foundations, with cypress siding. The exterior of the building features a two-story side piazza with an elaborate door framed by pilasters surmounted by an elliptical fanlight. The window casings on the Legare Street elevation are known as "tabernacle frames" and are considered the hallmark of building. The interior of the house consists of a central hall, with principal rooms on either side of each floor. Although the downstairs rooms are characterized by simple 18th century mantels and dentil cornices, the second floor drawing room contains an elaborate cypress mantelpiece, with carved acanthus brackets with mahogany fretwork and an elaborate overmantel with dog-ear corners, punctuated with medallions and fretwork borders. The cornice in this room is in the design referred to as "candle light" like that at Hopsewee Plantation. The rear kitchen dependency is joined to the main building through a later addition.

Date of Construction: c.1772-1773 Source of Date: Newspaper articles by Samuel Stoney andDate(s) of Alteration(s): Piazas c.1790-1810; first floor window - 1957  
Jack Leland (see attached)Has building been moved? ☐ yes ☒ no, if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Statement of significance:

This house was constructed about 1772 or 1773 by John Fullerton, one of Charleston's first architect-builders. Fullerton and his partner, William Miller, are known to have built the former St. Michael's rectory at 39 Meeting, the David Ramsay House at 92 Broad, and the Edward Rutledge House at the corner of Broad and Orange Streets. Other important Charleston Houses of the third quarter of the 18th century have been attributed to them. This house constructed by Fullerton, as his own residence, attests to his architectural skill and has a mantel and overmantel attributed to the workshop of Thomas Elfe, from whom Fullerton is known to have purchased decorative details for other buildings. Fullerton sold the house in 1777 to George Cookett and it served as headquarters for British staff officers during the American Revolution. During the nineteenth century, it was sold to a succession of different owners, including the Jenkins, Gervais, Ball, Smith and Wragg families.

This house has been rated as Category 1: Exceptional in the Historic Architecture Inventory of Charleston.

## 7. Photographs and maps.

Attach photographs and maps to application.

Continuation sheets attached: ☐ yes ☐ no