

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Orange	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Sans Souci	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Corbin (formerly North) Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough (Fourth Congressional District)			
STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Orange	CODE 135

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object ☒ Building ☐ Structure	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☒ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Samuel T. Latta			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Corbin			
CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Orange County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: E. Margaret Lane			
CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: [X] Federal [] State [] County [] Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Capitol and Independence Avenue S. E.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11	

STATE: North Carolina	COUNTY: Orange	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lefler, Hugh T., and Wager, Paul (eds.). Orange County: 1752-1952. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The Orange Printshop, 1953.

Orange County Records, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "	36 . 04 . 49 .	79 . 05 . 53 .	
NE	0 . "	0 . "			
SE	0 . "	0 . "			
SW	0 . "	0 . "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Three Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
State Department of Archives and History	April 21, 1971
STREET AND NUMBER:	
109 East Jones Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Raleigh	North Carolina
	CODE
	37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date April 21, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SECTION 102

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)
	☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered ☐ Moved ☐ Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
Sans Souci appears to have been built originally as a two-story dwelling of molded weatherboards with a gable roof. Set on a Flemish bond brick foundation, the house had an exterior end chimney on the east gable. Several additions and changes made to the house over the years have led to its present form. It seems likely that these changes were as follows: In the Federal period a chimney was added on the west gable, and one-and-a-half story wings, one bay wide and two bays deep, were constructed at both ends. In the middle of the nineteenth century, a Greek Revival shed addition was built across the rear of the main block and the east wing. At the same time, the chimney was moved from the east gable to the back slope of the roof of the central block. The front (south) facade of the main block is three bays wide with the main entrance in the left bay under a one-story porch. The entrance contains a raised-paneled door surmounted by a five-light transom. The porch, a later addition, extends the width of the main block and features chamfered wooden posts and a turned balustrade. The large windows on both levels contain nine-over-nine sash. The gable ends of the main block are two bays long, the west end being dominated by a large step-shoulder brick chimney. At either end of the main block is a story-and-a-half wing with a gable roof. Each wing has a window with nine-over-nine sash below a gable dormer with six-over-six sash and side cornices adorned with tiny molded brackets. The east wing has an exterior common bond end chimney with concave shoulders. The chimney is flanked by windows at the first level and in the gable. The west wing lacks the end chimney, but has the same window arrangement. The addition of the shed section across the rear of the main block and east wing presents a five-bay rear facade with an entrance in the second bay on the east side. There are three asymmetrically set gable dormers on the roof. The interior of the main block has a side-hall plan with a large parlor to the right. The walls in the hall are plastered above a high wainscot consisting of a range of horizontal raised panels above a range of vertical ones. A closed-string stair rises from the left side of the hall. The parlor contains a wainscot like that in the hall, and on the north wall, an extremely well-executed full height mantel. The opening is flanked by fluted pilasters which support a diminutive entablature including bands of incised designs, diagonal reeding, and a cushion frieze. Above is a simple molded shelf which rests on small fluted consoles. The paneled overmantel is framed by two fluted pilasters. The whole is surmounted by a molded dentil cornice which breaks out over each pilaster and carries around the entire room. The wings, which are less elaborately finished, have walls which are plastered above flat-panel wainscots. The west wing room, entered from the hall, contains a mantel on the east wall. The opening is framed by an architrave. Above is a single horizontal raised panel flanked by consoles which support a molded shelf. The original room in the east wing contains similar interiors. The construction of the shed addition created a large room with a side hall to the west on the rear of the wing. The fireplace on	

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description

the west wall of the original room was rebuilt as an exterior chimney on the east side of the wing to provide a corner fireplace for the original wing and the shed room. Each mantel consists of a molded shelf above a raised-panel frieze. The rear hall leads to the north entrance and contains a stair which rises from the left side. It has curvilinear brackets, balusters square in section, and a rounded handrail. The remainder of the addition is divided into one large room on the east and two smaller rooms to the west. The large room, with plaster above and below a molded chair rail, has a fine Greek Revival mantel with heavy fluted pilasters and applied Greek key ornament on the frieze. The doors and windows in all the shed rooms have heavy molded architraves with paneled cornerblocks. In the addition, the mantel, the stair ornamentation, and the window and door surrounds closely resemble those found in the old Orange County Courthouse. This suggests that the addition may have been the work of John Berry, the noted local builder who is known to have built the courthouse and several other Hillsborough buildings.

The second story of the main block is similar in plan to the first. The walls of the large east room are plastered above a raised-panel wainscot. The fireplace on the north wall features an opening framed by a wide reeded architrave. The frieze above is adorned with a single horizontal raised panel and has molded consoles at either end which support a cornice shelf. The over-mantel consists of a single horizontal raised panel above a row of three vertical ones.

The attic portions of the east wing and shed addition are finished with plaster walls above and below a molded chair rail. Beneath each window is a raised panel framed by the baseboard and the extension of the window architrave. The mantels are quite plain with recessed panels as the only ornamentation. The attic of the west wing was finished in the twentieth century.

In the yard are several early outbuildings including a kitchen, an office, and servants' quarters. The frame kitchen features an enormous step-shouldered brick chimney with an outside fireplace.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phil-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itorian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sans Souci was probably built about 1813 by William Cain. Although no record of transfer can be found, it is thought that Cain purchased the thirty-acre tract, where he built the house, from David Yarborough. The price per acre when Yarborough bought the land in 1812 indicates that no building of consequence stood there then. It is likely, therefore, that the house was built after Cain bought the land.

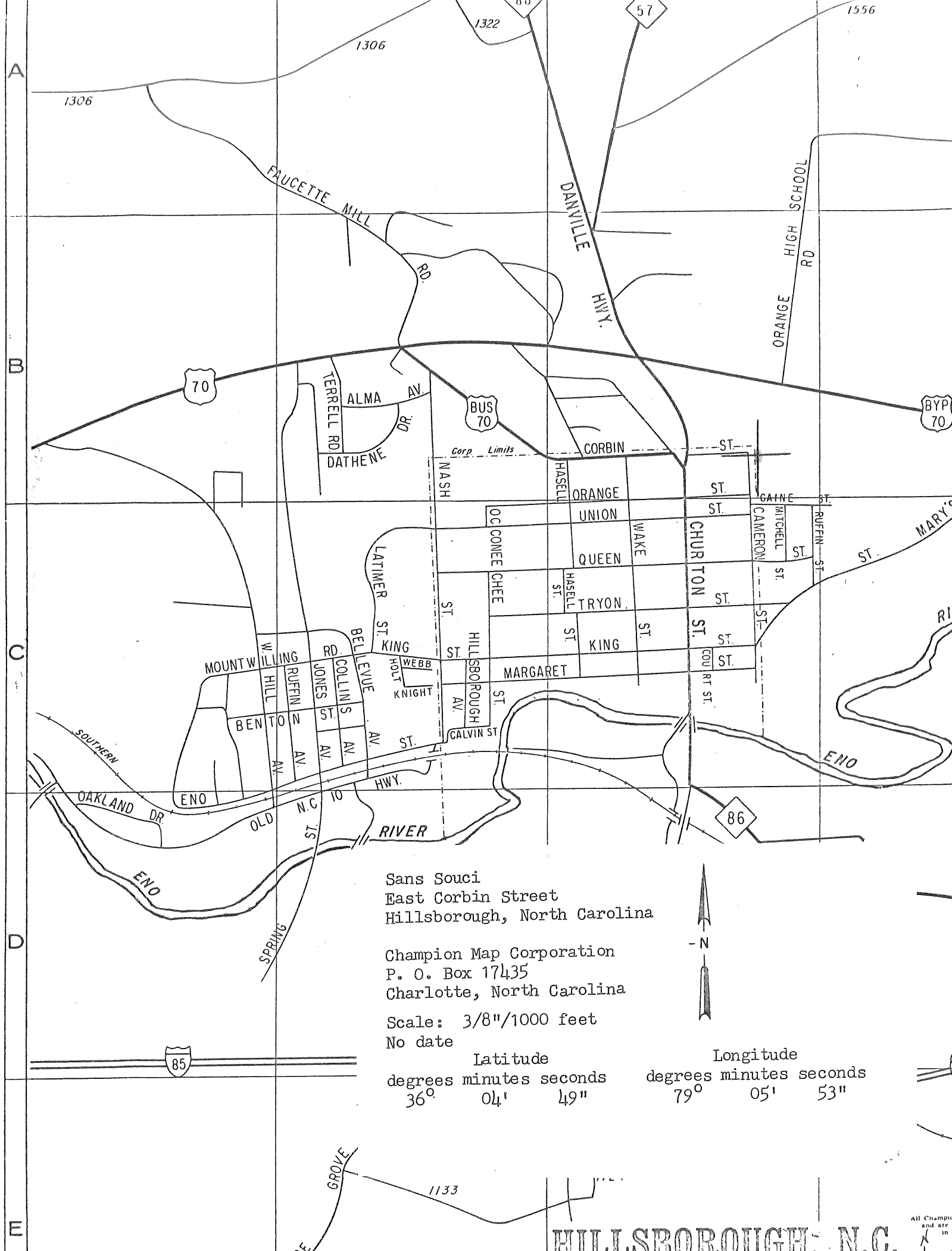
San Souci, located at the edge of Hillsborough, seems to have been Cain's town house. His country house, called Hard Scrabble, is located several miles from Hillsborough in what is now Durham County.

The Cain family was one of the wealthiest in Orange County during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In 1800 William Cain's father, also named William Cain, owned 4,417 acres of land, making him the largest property owner in the county. The elder Cain was a member of the House of Commons from Orange in 1785 and of the Senate from 1784 to 1797 and again in 1802. The younger William Cain, who built Sans Souci, was born April 2, 1784, and married Mary Ruffin, a sister of Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin. When he died on September 27, 1857, he willed "the house in which I formerly lived" to his son-in-law, Pride Jones.

Sans Souci was sold at public auction on June 3, 1889, to Galvin E. Parrish, who immediately assigned his bid to Episcopal Bishop Theodore B. Lyman of Raleigh. Bishop Lyman, a native of Massachusetts who founded Episcopal churches in Florence and Rome during the 1860's, became the fourth Protestant Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina in 1881. Bishop Lyman and his wife, Susan, sold Sans Souci to Jennie L. Ruffin on July 22, 1893. Miss Ruffin's will, proved on March 16, 1934, bequeathed all of her property, real and personal to Samuel T. Latta, who now lives at Sans Souci.

Sans Souci appears to be a local adaptation of the building type made popular by plate 37 in Robert Morris's Select Architecture. This design, best exemplified in some of the Tidewater houses of Virginia and North Carolina, influenced builders in many other parts of these states as well. Sans Souci, which appears to have been constructed in three major stages, was probably not conceived originally as a three-part house, for the central block which once stood alone has a side hall plan rather than the more typical center hall plan. With the addition of the wings, however, it did take on a vague approximation of the three-part massing characteristic of houses following Morris's plate. San Souci is cited by Thomas Tileston Waterman for its importance in the development of North Carolina domestic architecture, especially its fine original woodwork.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



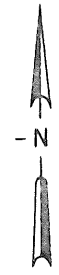
Sans Souci
East Corbin Street
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Champion Map Corporation
P. O. Box 17435
Charlotte, North Carolina

Scale: 3/8"/1000 feet
No date

Latitude
degrees minutes seconds
36° 04' 49"

Longitude
degrees minutes seconds
79° 05' 53"



HILLSBOROUGH, N.C.

All Champion
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