

Rest House - RUINS  
St. Simons Island, Georgia

*Waynes Co.*

GA-285  
HABS No. 14-55  
HABS  
GA  
64-5A51  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. 14

Historic American Buildings Survey  
P. Thornton Marye, District Officer  
62 Bartow St., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia

REST HOUSE  
Couper's Point, St. Simons Island  
Glynn County  
Georgia

Owner: Sea Island Company.

Date of Erection: About 1825.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Ruins.

Number of Stories: One and a half.

Materials of Construction: Tabby.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

REST HOUSE  
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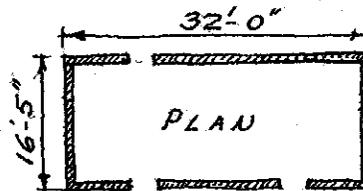
HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

This so-called "rest" house is near the light-house and stands five hundred feet back from the ocean. It commands a view of Jekyl Sound and the entrance to the mainland.<sup>1</sup>

The rest house has "all the characteristics of an institutional building, even to the round window in the gable end. However, the older inhabitants of St. Simons say it was built as a weather house for the Couper slaves who might be working in the fields nearby and who would need some sort of shelter from rain and storm. Those who have made a study of the missions of St. Simons believe, however, that Mr. Couper utilized a building which he found standing at this place and that this was originally a mission."<sup>2</sup>

John Couper was a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and lived ninety years.

The tabby structure had truncated gables at each end, although the full gables might have been completed in wood or other material than tabby. A round oculus is in the upper part of each gable. The dimensions of the structure are given by a rough sketch made by R.R. Otis and W.G. Kurtz, of Atlanta. A copy is given here:



<sup>1</sup> Notes from Exhibit <sup>190</sup>/<sub>8</sub>, Federal Art Project.

<sup>2</sup> Cate, M.D., Our Today's and Yesterdays, 130.

by Henry Chandlee Forman  
1936