## 7. America At Work

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South Carolina	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	<u>.                                    </u>
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SIGNIFICANCE			
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SPECIFIC DATES (If Applied	ble and Known)	1821	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally and historically significant as well as a fine example of landscape architecture, Dean Hall Plantation was settled prior to 1725 by Alexander Nisbett of Dean, Scotland. Nisbett later inherited Scotch property and the family baronetcy.

The estate was sold in 1821 to William Augustus Carson who built the present house from brick made at Medway Plantation across the river. Carson developed the rice plantation to the extent that it was said to have resembled "a well ordered village" rather than a single plantation.

It is said that Sir Charles Lyell, eminent British geologist, visited Dean Hall and was so impressed with the treatment of slaves that he confessed "my prejudices have been entirely eradicated." However, he hastened to add that as an Englishman, he could never be a convert to the institution.

Dean Hall was sold to Elias Nonus Ball in 1856 upon Carson's death. During the Confederate War, the estate was sold for Confederate securities. After the war, Carson's widow (daughter of James Louis Petigru, an ardent South Carolina Unionist) recovered the property.

In 1909, Dean Hall came under the ownership of Benjamin Rufus Kittredge. It was Kittredge who modernized the old house and planted the renowned Cypress Gardens, one of Charleston's three nationally acclaimed gardens, open to the public since 1930.

Architecturally, the house is distinctive in that its unusual, encircling plazza enabled the owner to keep an eye on the work in the rice fields, his upland plantings, or the slave quarters. Plazza also supplied shade, making large shade trees, which cut off air and light, unnecessary.

Special consideration is requested for this nomination due to the fact that E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company currently plans to raze the building in order to begin construction of an industrial complex. It is hoped that National Register standing for this historic building will underline its significance and prevent its destruction.

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