

Squire Wm Pope
Re - Pope's Pt Comfort Plantation

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Ancient Bricks Used at Inn

South Carolina's newest luxury resort, the million dollar William Hilton Inn on Hilton Head Island, presents a blending of new and old in its oceanfront buildings and site.

Of contemporary design, the 80-unit inn represents a collaboration between one of the deans of American resort architecture, 75-year-old Carlos Schoeppl of Miami, and a young South Carolina architect, 30-year-old Clemson-trained Richard A. McGinty of Hilton Head.

The Vienna-born Schoeppl, who has designed major motels in Miami Beach, Atlanta, Augusta and many other American cities during recent years, worked closely with his young colleague in the basic designing stage of the work, then turned the project over to McGinty to put it into reality.

Though thoroughly modern in design, the long low buildings of the inn avoid starkness through usage of time-tested materials that include century-old

bricks, warm-toned redwood siding and massive Douglas fir timbers.

Some forty thousand of the famous Savannah gray bricks, so well known and loved by all low country dwellers, were carefully salvaged from the massive foundations of a Savannah department store and used to cover all exposed masonry surfaces in

the five inn buildings.

Of a light rose-red, whitened by mortar and age, the bricks were handmade by slaves at the Hermitage plantation near Savannah, and are almost half again as big as ordinary face brick. Due to ever-growing demand from builders, these bricks

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now sell at approximately three times the price of new face brick, and the demand normally is months ahead of the supply.

The four-and-one-half acre site for the new motor lodge, with its 425-foot frontage on the wide white Hilton Head beach also represents a striking combination of new and old.

While it's now the site of the first big resort facility on an island where development only started a few years ago, the inn property is part of an ancient plantation whose beginnings date back some two and a half centuries. English settlers first pushed their way down the coast from Charleston soon after 1700.

Last ante-bellum owners of the plantation which took in the inn site was the Pope family. Pope avenue, one of the main roads on south Hilton Head, was named for them.

This plantation, of some 1,500 acres, extended from the ocean back to Broad Creek. The buildings and most of the fields were located on the inner side of the island, it is believed. Early plantation records, however, tell how the Popes and their guests used to ride, swim and hunt for sea turtle eggs along the beach frontage of their property.

Edward K. Strain

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This refers to the Point Comfort (Hilton Head) Plantation of Squire William Pope consisting of 1000 acres. The old map (before 1861) shows Pope's home on Point Comfort as being back near Calibogue Sound. He bought Point Comfort from Davant heirs in 1823 or 24 - see "Hilton Head" by Holmgren pg. 131