Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0690589

7. America at Work

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 24 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old Brass (Auldbrass)

AND/OR COMMON Auldbrass

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER River Road — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Yemassee — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE South Carolina — CODE 045 — COUNTY Beaufort — CODE 013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	X BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jessica Stevens Loring

STREET & NUMBER 143 Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN Greenwich — __ VICINITY OF — STATE Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Beaufort County Clerk of Court, County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Bay Street

CITY, TOWN Beaufort — STATE South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia — STATE South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Auldbrass Plantation was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright during the period between 1940 and 1951. Wright's design incorporates aspects of traditional plantation architecture with innovative structure and details. His design, inspired by nature, reflects the natural environment of the South Carolina lowcountry. Characteristic of this area are cypress trees and live oaks draped with Spanish moss. Wright incorporated these elements into his design of Auldbrass.

Exterior: The main house at Auldbrass is a long structure which appears to be an extension of the native landscape. The structure is based on hexagonal modules which (as in other Wright designs) are joined to create various interpenetrating planes. The slanting exterior walls of native cypress lumber are laid diagonally and held by brass screws. The slant of the walls -- at an 80 degree angle -- reflects the slant of the oak trees (70 to 80 degrees from the ground). Numerous doors and windows -- all at the 80 degree incline -- make the entire structure open and accessible. The details of these doors and windows repeat the diagonal pattern of the cypress walls. Located beneath the roofline are windows which feature an abstract design thought to have been inspired by Indian arrowheads.

At the exterior corners there are abstract wooden sculptured versions of Spanish moss. Extending from the ends of the structure, as well as encircling it, are concrete terraces which feature a hexagonal pattern.

A lantern roof is located above the main room of the structure. It features the arrowhead motif along its clerestory. The roof was originally copper but had to be replaced in the early 1950s due to deterioration.

Interior: The main structure features a large living area with lantern roof above as its central focal point. The room is dominated by a red brick fireplace which has the vertical mortar painted red and the horizontal mortar painted white to continue the horizontal emphasis of the structure.

Off to the east of the living room is a wing containing two bedrooms,each one having a fireplace, bath, and dressing room. A south wing contains a dining room, pantry, and kitchen. A west wing, separated from the rest of the structure by a glassed-in walkway, contains a large kitchen with basement (walk-in freezer rooms).

The interior walls are native cypress mellowed with wax -- except for portions of the bedroom walls which have been painted in the last few years. The functional design of the ceiling remains exposed. Wright included built-in cabinets, drawers and furniture in his basic design. Furniture not of his creation was specifically designed for Auldbrass. Wright also included light fixtures and miscellaneous items -- the result being one entirely unified design.

Surroundings: Included in Wright's design for Auldbrass are outbuildings which create a working plantation. Linked together to form one working complex is the gatehouse,

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1940, 1951 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Lloyd Wright

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land constituting Auldbrass Plantation has a history which dates long before the present plantation house was constructed. Originally Indian lands, this area was divided into Royal Grants in the early 18th Century. Later in that century the lands were consolidated into large plantations. During the 20th Century the area became important as timber land.

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the plantation complex reflects an innovative and advanced design; yet it also expresses a sympathy for the heritage of the land and the natural environment.

History: The Yamassee Indians lived on the lands which today constitute Auldbrass. In 1707 they were given the protection of the Provincial government by an Act of Parliament. This agreement was honored until an uprising in 1715 resulted in the massacre of nearby white settlers. Traces of Indian civilization including arrowheads and pottery shards can still be found on Auldbrass.

Beginning in 1731 these former Indian lands were surveyed and were issued in the form of Royal Grants. The land on which Auldbrass now stands was a 474 acre grant to Charles Barker (recorded 1736). By 1760 a number of these grants had been consolidated into larger holdings owned by Charleston rice planters.

In 1864 Williams Middleton, a grandson of Arthur Middleton who signed the Declaration of Independence, purchased the central section of the present Auldbrass from Colonel John Henry Screven. It was in this deed of 1864 that the land was first referred to as "Old Brass." At this time Williams Middleton also owned Middleton Place (National Historic Landmark). Middleton also spent many years in Russia as an attache of the American delegation, and in 1860 he was one of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession.

Between 1890 and 1900 James U. Jackson of Augusta, Georgia purchased most of the lands now comprising Auldbrass and established the Combahee Hunt Club. Just prior to World War I the land became part of the holdings of the Savannah River Lumber Corporation. In the late 1930s, C. Leigh Stevens acquired ownership of the corporation and selected the present site for a plantation complex to be designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright modified the name Old Brass to Auldbrass.

Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright had an impact on architecture on an international level. Auldbrass exemplifies many of Wright's innovations in design, structure and concept. Wright's love for natural materials, his desire for open planning, and his feel for the

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. In the Nature of Materials The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright. New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1942.

Kaufmann, Edgar J. An American Architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright. New York: Horizon Press, 1955.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 326 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			

NW: 32° 41'30" 80° 48'57"
NE: 32° 41'30" 80° 48'04"
SW: 32° 40'31" 80° 48'57"
SE: 32° 40'31" 80° 48'04"

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A, 295° NW at a distance of approximately 453.75' along River Road to point B, 314° NW for a distance of 2,640' along River Road to point C, 54° NE for a distance of approximately 4743.25' until the Combahee River at point D and following the Combahee River until that point E 120° SE of point D where said point E intersects with the Combahee River and then 229° SW for a distance of approximately 5280.0' at the intersection with point A.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Katharine N. McNulty (Cindy Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Loring)
Lowcountry Planner: owners

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Division
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE October 17, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE 803-758-5816

CITY OR TOWN Columbia

STATE South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-17-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 6/3/76

ATTEST: Robert G. Ketchum

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE 6-2-76

GPO 888-445

manager's quarters, kennels and stables.

The gate house (or guest house) conforms in design to the main dwelling. It has a large living room area with massive fireplace, two bedrooms, bath, and kitchenette and dining area. The gatehouse is connected by covered walkway to the stables, manager's quarters, and kennels.

The stables contain six stalls and are adjoined to a fenced corral. The manager's quarters include an office, bedroom and two baths. The dog kennels have 12 compartments and three wire enclosed areas.

Separate from this complex, but uniform in design, are the two caretaker houses. Constructed on concrete mats, each has a large screened porch and contains a large combination living room-bedroom-kitchen facility with separate bath.

All these outbuildings feature the diagonally-laid cypress walls at the 80 degree incline. The built-in furniture, drawers and closets are all included. As in the main structure, the smallest detail was considered to create a unified design.

Other outbuildings include a guest house and storage building -- neither designed by Wright. There are also several metal sheds used for storage.

A low brick terrace runs along the front lawn of the main structure.

natural surroundings are all in evidence. His attempts to end the distinction between interior and exterior space and to create an "organic architecture" are visible in the plan of Auldbrass. One of the two Wright structures in South Carolina, Auldbrass manifests the mature thinking of a man thought by many to have altered the direction of modern architectural design.

We feel that the fifty-year age requirement for National Register status should be waived for Auldbrass for the following reasons:

1. that the architect was Frank Lloyd Wright,
2. that this is one of only two Wright houses located in this state,
3. that the unique design of the house and its adaptation to the setting is unusually distinctive and merits recognition, and
4. that the site itself is of historical significance.

Salley, A.S., ed. South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. Vol. 1. Charleston: Walker, Evans and Cogshell, 1900.

Storer, William A. The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, A Complete Catalog. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1974.

Todd, John R. and Hutson, Francis M. Prince Williams Parish and Plantations. Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1935.

Webber, Mabel Louise, ed. South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. Vol. 20. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1919.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. Drawing for a Living Architecture. New York: Horizon Press, 1959.