

PH0690601

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
 RECEIVED **DEC 29 1977**  
 DATE ENTERED **DEC 13 1977**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **Lawson's Pond Plantation**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION** Five miles north of Cross at the end of a dirt road extending from southwest side of South Carolina Highway 6

STREET & NUMBER

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

**Cross**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**#1**

VICINITY OF

STATE

**South Carolina**

CODE

**045**

COUNTY

**Berkeley**

CODE

**015**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Mrs. Elias Couturier**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

**Cross**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

**South Carolina**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Berkeley County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER

**Main Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Moncks Corner**

STATE

**South Carolina**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE **Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina**

DATE

**1973**

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

**South Carolina Department of Archives and History**

CITY, TOWN

**Columbia**

STATE

**South Carolina**

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED (minor)

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built ca. 1823, Lawson's Pond is a two-story clapboard structure set upon approximately seven feet high brick foundations. Featuring a one-story piazza along the front and left facades, it remains virtually original.

The front facade features two matching front doors flanked by four evenly spaced windows, two to a side. (The window to the extreme left is hidden by a porch elevator.) The front doors are framed by fluted pilasters and an entablature with Greek key and sunburst motifs. Between the doors is a three-sectioned wooden panel which reiterates the panels of the doors. The upper level of the front facade has a central sidelighted window which is flanked by two windows on each side.

The side facades each have four windows on both stories (an exception being the lower front window on the left facade which has been replaced by a door). The left facade also features the one-story piazza which continues from the front. The slender Doric columns are original, but the balustrade has been replaced. Front and side facade windows are 9/9 with paneled shutters (some of the shutters are missing).

The rear facade has a central entrance which opens onto a small portico, above which is a sidelighted 12/9 window. The rear porch is not original and is not centered on the rear facade. Located to each side on both stories is a single 9/9 window.

Running along the cornice is a wide band of gouge work which is repeated along the porch cornice. This moulding was designed to resemble a dentil entablature. Two tall interior chimneys pierce the high hipped roof which is covered by tin. The chimneys feature corbelled caps with bands of white stucco below.

Interior: The floor plan consists of four rooms per floor. The two rear rooms on the main floor are separated by a small hall containing the stairway. On the second story a wide central hall separates the rooms into pairs. The two rear rooms were left unfinished, but one has now been made into a bathroom.

The main floor has extensive decorative trim, each room having its own style of design. The cornices are in a variation of the rope design. Mantels and door frames are heavily carved with sunburst, fan and Chippendale fretwork motifs. Wainscoting, doors, and the stairway are marbled.

The second story does not have decorative features.

Surroundings: Lawson's Pond is located in rural Berkeley County and is surrounded by farmland.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lawson's Pond is a large two-story clapboard structure set upon high foundations. Built ca. 1823 it is similar in style to neighboring structures which together represent a regional style of architecture. The residences of large planters who were closely connected in terms of social and economic mores, these structures remain as evidence of a particular life style. Architecturally, Lawson's Pond is the most elegant of the remaining structures, having detailed carving and elegant proportions.

In 1818, at the time of the inventory of the estate of Philip Porcher, Lawson's Pond was a working plantation with numerous slaves and farm animals. Although no plantation house was located there at that time, the total worth of the plantation was valued at \$42,908.

Philip Porcher left this plantation to his son, Charles Cordes Porcher. In 1823 Charles C. Porcher married Rebecca C. Marion and apparently built the present structure at that time.

Porcher farmed the plantation and in 1860 produced 150 bales of cotton at 400 pounds each. In that same year, he had 1,000 acres of improved farmland and 110 slaves.

Charles C. Porcher died intestate in 1877 and without heirs. At some point thereafter, the Couturier family acquired the plantation and it has since remained in their family. Today, the surrounding lands continue to be farmed.

Architecture: Lawson's Pond exemplifies a regional style of architecture which developed in the upper St. John's area of Berkeley County, South Carolina. This style is characterized by two single front doors and a hipped roof. Of the remaining structures of this style, Lawson's Pond possesses the most elaborate details. According to Tom Waterman, an architect writing for the Historic American Buildings Survey, "The only house in the area which approaches the Rocks (National Register 1976) in architectural importance is Lawson [sic] Pond...."<sup>1</sup>

Each room on the main floor has its own type of decorative design. Mantels and doors are heavily carved; wainscoting, doors, and stairway are marbled.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas T. Waterman, "A Survey of the Early Buildings in the Region of the Proposed Santee and Pinopolis Reservoirs in South Carolina." MS, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic American Building Survey, 1939, p. 19.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davidson, Chalmers G. The Last Foray, Columbia:  
University of South Carolina, 1971.

(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 9

Longitude: 80°13' 23" <sup>05</sup>

UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: 33°22'13"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY (Elias Bull; Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester)

NAME / TITLE

Kappy McNulty, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

September 21, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

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

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 12-6-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: *Charles E. Lee*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/13/77  
DATE 12-9-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Porcher, Frederick A. "Upper Beat of St. John's Berkeley." A Contribution to the History of the Huguenots of South Carolina. Ed. T. Gaillard Thomas. 1887; rpt. Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1972.

Stoney, Samuel G., ed. Plantations of the Carolina Low Country. Charleston: Carolina Art Association, 1964.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston Inventories, E, p. 512.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston Wills, Vol. 33, Book C, p. 1401.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Eighth Agricultural Census, 1860, St. John's Berkeley Parish, Charleston County, p. 345.