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
Middleburg Plantation

AND/OR COMMON
Middleburg Plantation

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Off State Route 511

CITY, TOWN
Huger

STATE
South Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 x BUILDING(S)
 x STRUCTURE
 x SITE

 x PUBLIC
 x PRIVATE
 x BOTH
 x PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 x OCCUPIED
 x UNOCCUPIED
 x WORK IN PROGRESS

 x ACCESSIBLE
 x YES: RESTRICTED
 x YES: UNRESTRICTED
 x NO

 x AGRICULTURE
 x COMMERCIAL
 x EDUCATIONAL
 x ENTERTAINMENT
 x GOVERNMENT
 x INDUSTRIAL
 x MILITARY

 x MUSEUM
 x PARK
 x PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 x RELIGIOUS
 x SCIENTIFIC
 x TRANSPORTATION
 x OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Mr. John Gibbs

STREET & NUMBER
Middleburg Plantation

CITY, TOWN
Huger

STATE
South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Clerk of the Court's Office

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 218

CITY, TOWN
Moncks Corner

STATE
South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE
Drawings and photographs, 1940

x FEDERAL
 STATE:
 COUNTY:
 LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.
Middleburg was built about 1699 by Benjamin Simons, a French Huguenot planter whose descendents have owned it ever since. The two-storey frame house is 64 feet long and 20 feet wide, or 39 feet wide if the porches extending the lengths of the house are included. The exterior is a picture of simplicity, with clapboarded walls, hipped roof, and two chimneys. One is an interior chimney not far from the east end, the other an exterior one situated on the south elevation. The windows have nine over nine lights, and the ground floor has exterior shutters. The one-storey covered porches on the north and south fronts have rooms off their extremities, except for the southwest corner where that room was removed many years ago. The porches and exterior rooms are considered 18th century additions. The porch posts supporting the structure are square to the height of the rail, and round above that. The entrance doors, two in each of the principal fronts, are battened and have original hardware.

Middleburg's single file of three rooms, permitting cross-ventilation in the sometimes stifling climate of the Carolina low country, with shading piazzas on both sides, is the same as the basic plan of the later, 18th century Charleston single houses. Inside, the rooms are plastered on the exterior walls, although the partitions are sheathed with vertical boarding. The heavy corner posts and girts project into the room in the 17th century style. The floors are made with wide boards. The stair is located against the west partition wall of the center room, leading to the upper floor where a narrow hall extends along the north wall. One bedroom is at either end of the hall, and a third bedroom and a small wine room is in the center against the south wall. The upper floor rooms also have vertical boarded panelling, and their fireplaces have plaster panels above their original mantels.

The long, 21 foot western section of the house which contains the present stair, one room on each floor, and the exterior chimney, was added later in the 18th century. The panelling and mantels in these two rooms are also of a later period. If this is correct, as all evidence would indicate, then Middleburg as originally constructed in 1699, was a symmetrical two-storey hipped-roof house with a central chimney between the two rooms on each floor. The original dimensions would have been about 43 feet in length and 20 feet in width. It is believed that the original, center entrance vestibule was located on the north side of the interior chimney, in the space now occupied by closets, and that the original stair was situated on the south side of the chimney in what is now a passageway between two rooms. Middleburg is now in very good condition and remarkably, appears to have been virtually unaltered since the end of the 18th century.
Middleburg, erected about 1699, is a splendid example of a transitional two-storey frame plantation house. The structure retains the medieval plan of a one room thickness, and also the exposed post and girt construction of the 17th century, even though it is two stories in height. Possibly the oldest extant wooden house in South Carolina, Middleburg's plan of a single file of rooms, also forecasts the basic plan of Charleston's Georgian "single house" of the 18th century. The plantation house has undergone remarkably little alteration since the end of the 18th century.
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  c. 400 acres

UTM REFERENCES

DA 117 60° 7' 30° 0' 3° 6' 6" 12° 8' 0" 7° 1° 7' 6° 1° 8' 0' 3° 6' 6" 5° 30' 0"
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
BC 117 6° 0' 8° 6° 1° 2° 12° 0' 3° 6° 6" 12° 0" 3° 6° 6" 3° 0' 48° 0"

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Dillon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

DATE
April 1, 1976

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 11/3/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)
Middleburg Plantation

In addition to the marvellous architectural character of the house and the very special natural setting of the plantation, it should be noted that a pair of subsidiary buildings to the west of the house offer an insight into the social history of the mid-19th century--more than a century after the initial construction of the house. A commissary building there of brick and a frame carriage house with valuable jigsaw detailing, are remnants of the period of intense national struggle over the question of slavery. Particularly poignant is a slave jail at the rear of the commissary building from which the slaves received their apportioned rations periodically. Used as a tool in the transformation of "wild" slaves just arrived from Africa, these pens served an invaluable, if monstrous, role in breaking the spirit of these men, and teaching them the ways and language of the plantation slave.


Middleburg Plantation

Located on the east bank of the Cooper River East Branch, Middleburg Plantation lies entirely West of Clements Ferry Road, approximately 2 miles southwest of Huger, South Carolina, and entirely within Berkeley County, South Carolina. Although originally a plantation of many thousands of acres, the portion still in the hands of the owners of the house at Middleburg Plantation is considerably less. The previously very large area has been divided into a number of other plantations and estates, with their own dwellings. The area immediately around the Plantation House, however, provides one of the most remarkable of "low-country" plantation environments remaining intact, representing extremely well the nature of the area on which developed the important example of early architecture we have in that house.

The Middleburg Plantation National Landmark is bounded on the Northeast, by the southwestern side of a dirt road running between Clements Ferry Road and The Cooper River. This road is immediately southwest of The Pompion Hill Chapel (another national historic landmark), and is clearly seen on the accompanying USGS map. The northwestern boundary of the landmark is the Cooper River, at the Northeast bank of the levee constructed along the water there. The southeast boundary consists of the northwest side of the Clements Ferry Road, while finally, the southwest boundary consists of a line drawn from a point along the Clements Ferry Road 100 yards southwest of the entrance road at Middleburg, clearly shown on the accompanying USGS map, running parallel to that entrance road at a distance of 100 yards. Where the entrance road stops short of the Cooper River, the boundary line continues directly northwest to the river.

The total acreage of this area is approximately 400.