

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**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

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Huger

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Carolina

45

Berkeley

015

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

___ DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
___ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. John Gibbs

STREET & NUMBER

Middleburg Plantation

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Huger

___ VICINITY OF

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

STATE

Moncks Corner

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

Drawings and photographs, 1940

 FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" 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 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 c. 1699 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

D A	1,7	6 0,7	3,0,0	3,6 6,7	2,8,0	B	1,7	6 0,8	6,2,0	3,6 6,1	30,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
B C	1,7	6 0,8	6,8,0	3,6 6,0	2,0,0	C D	1,7	6 0,7	3,2,0	3,6 6,0	1,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

James Dillon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey

DATE

April 1, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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

11/18/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

SECRET

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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.

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1941).

Samuel G. Stoney, Plantations of the Carolina Low Country (Charleston, 1938).

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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.