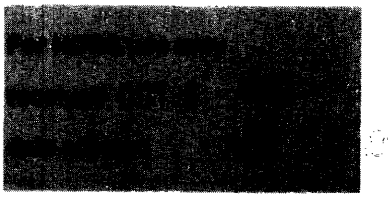
FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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: Richmond Plantation

and/or common: The Girl Scout Plantation

2. Location

street & number: 15 miles east of Moncks Corner, S.C., on Route 402 ___ not for publication

city, town: Cordesville ___x___ vicinity of congressional district: First

state: South Carolina code: 045 county: Berkeley code: 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	X educational	___ private residence
X site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name: Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council

street & number: 2400 Air Park Road

city, town: Charleston Heights ___ vicinity of state: South Carolina 29405

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Berkeley County Court House

street & number: Main Street

city, town: Moncks Corner state: South Carolina 29461

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: 1980 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town: Columbia state: South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in rural Berkeley County, South Carolina, Richmond Plantation contains a manor house and outbuildings constructed ca. 1927 as a hunting lodge for George A. Ellis. The manor house, designed by the New York City architectural firm of Clinton and Russell, is in the Shavian Manorial Style. The property also includes a cemetery and archeological features associated with an earlier eighteenth and nineteenth century rice plantation.

Manor House

Exterior: The manor house at Richmond Plantation was designed by the New York City architectural firm of Clinton and Russell, and completed by ca. 1927. The blueprints are preserved on the plantation.

The manor house is a one and one-half story brick building, in the Shavian Manorial Style, as defined by the neo-medieval work of the English architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912). The building has a rectangular central mass, with two single story wings, each set at an angle of 15° north of the longitudinal axis of the central block.

The north elevation of the central block features a projecting entrance pavilion on its west end, and a smaller pavilion on its east end, with three casement windows between the two pavilions. The gable roof is slate, with a pitch specified at 45° in the blueprints, and is pierced on the north by three dormer windows with hip roofs. The entrance is distinguished by a brick flat arch over the door, with coursed slate keystone and imposts. A metal gargoyle, depicting a winged and toothed fish, is set above this arch. The door itself, reportedly salvaged from a Charleston theatre, is vertical board and batten, with a Tudor arched top.

The east and west elevations of the central block feature massive brick chimneys, with coursed slate shoulderings, central to the gable ends. Iron masks, purportedly representing King Charles I of England in a grotesque grimace, are set on each chimney.

The south elevation of the central block features large bay windows at its east and west ends, with a set of large French doors central. Three large and two small dormer windows pierce the slate roof.

Brickwork is common bond. The bricks were reportedly salvaged from a Charleston theatre.

The west wing of Richmond Manor House is a one story, T-shaped brick wing with a slate roof. One octagonal and two rectangular chimneys accentuate the roofline. The west extremity of this wing has a hip-roofed porch, with heavy timber posts and brackets. Fenestration is irregular, with both casement and bay windows.

The east wing, like the west, is one story and T-shaped. This wing has a combination of hip and gable-on-hip roofs. A single octagonal chimney pierces the roof of this wing. Fenestration is irregular. A porch at the eastern end terminates the east wing.

Interior: The main block of Richmond Plantation Manor House was designed to receive select woodwork salvaged from unidentified English buildings. The entrance hall on the north elevation leads to a transverse hall, which runs the length of the central block on the north side. The two large rooms of the central block open to the south. The two wings are accessible from the hall at either end.

Continued

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	X archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	X social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1927 **Builder/Architect** Clinton and Russell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Richmond Plantation, located in rural Berkeley County, South Carolina, includes a manor house and outbuildings constructed ca. 1927 as a hunting lodge for George A. Ellis and a cemetery and archeological features associated with an eighteenth and nineteenth century rice plantation. The manor house and outbuildings are historically important for their association with Ellis, a prominent New York financier. The Ellis complex is also significant as an example of the phenomenon of the purchase and development of nonproductive southern plantations by wealthy northerners in the years between 1890 and 1940. The manor house, designed by the architectural firm of Clinton and Russell, is architecturally significant as an example of the Shavian Manorial Style. Archeologically, the property contains significant features that should yield information important to the history of rice plantations in South Carolina.

Richmond Plantation was developed in the second half of the eighteenth century by John Harleston (1733-1793), a prominent lowcountry planter. Although Harleston owned other plantations, and residences in Charleston and in St. John Berkeley, Richmond became his principal seat. Before the Revolution Harleston represented the parish of St. John Berkeley in the Twenty-eighth Royal Assembly (1768), and after the outbreak of the conflict he represented the parish in the Third General Assembly (1779-1780).

Two watercolor paintings of the Harleston Plantation House at Richmond, executed by Charles Fraser in 1803, indicate a large two and one-half story building on a raised basement. Single story verandas, reached by broad flights of stairs, are located on two elevations. Two brick chimney stacks and at least one dormer pierced the pyramidal roof. Construction was apparently frame, with a brick basement.

After the death of Harleston in 1793 the plantation house is reputed to have passed to his daughter Jane Smith Harleston, who in 1794 married Edward Rutledge, Jr. Rutledge, a member of a leading lowcountry family, served in the Tenth (1792-1794), Eleventh (1794-1795), Twelfth (1796-1797), and Thirteenth (1798-1799) South Carolina General Assemblies.

In the mid-nineteenth century the plantation house was the home of Sarah Harleston Huger, a grandaughter of John Harleston, and her husband, Dr. Benjamin Huger, who was considered "one of the most diligent planters on the river." Around 1900 the house burned.

After passing through various owners, the plantation was purchased by George A. Ellis of New York City in the 1920's. Ellis was one of numerous wealthy northerners, such as Mr. and Mrs. Archer Huntington (Laurel Hill, Springfield, Brookgreen, the Oaks), Jesse Metcalf (Bates Hill, Glenmore, Holly Grove, Hasty Point, Breakwater, Belle Rive), and Walker Inman (Greenfield), who bought nonproductive South Carolina plantations in the years between 1890 and 1940 and established seasonal homes on the vast tracts. Ellis was a co-founder in 1904 of E. F. Hutton and Company, one of the principal member firms of the New York Stock Exchange. Mrs. Ellis, the former Florence Adams, was the daughter of Thomas Adams, chewing gum manufacturer. Interested in hunting and horsebreeding,

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 152.4

Quadrangle name Huger, S.C. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	606700	3661065
B	17	607160	3660441
C	17	606165	3659720
D	17	605760	3660390
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Richmond Plantation nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax map of Berkeley County entitled "T.M.S. No. 214-00-00-001" and drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings, structures, and sites.

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 Historical Programs Section; Mrs. Betty Morgan, President, Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council

organization South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History **date** July 29, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station **telephone** (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia **state** South Carolina 29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 9/25/80

The living room, the largest room in the house, features 3/4 height paneled wainscoting, plaster walls above, and an exposed-beam ceiling. The blueprints specify "old wood" to be used for the ceiling beams. A stone mantelpiece with Gothic cusped arches, reportedly salvaged from England, dominates the room from the west end.

The dining room has Georgian woodwork, with room-height wainscoting on its east wall and quarter-height wainscoting elsewhere. The east wall features coved cupboard recesses on either side of the fireplace, which has a marble fire surround. The wooden mantelpiece has a full classical architrave resting on crossettes, with a carved frieze featuring foliated arabesques and a central eagle. Doors in this room have similar architraves, with foliated friezes. The edges of the door stiles and rails feature carved foliage patterns.

The second floor, reached by an open-well, U-shaped staircase, consists of several lesser bedrooms, as well as storage areas. Ornamentation is minimal.

The west wing of Richmond Plantation Manor House contains the library, the three principal bedrooms of the Ellis family, and the associated dressing rooms, closets, and baths. The library is paneled with three-quarter height wainscoting, and features a stone mantelpiece of English Tudor design, reportedly salvaged from an English castle.

The east wing contains the kitchen, the servants' quarters, and the stairway to the basement. The Ellis' wine cellar was located under this wing.

Floors throughout the manor house are of oak, except for the kitchen and the main hallway, where octagonal quarry tile is used. The major floor spans are reinforced with steel girders.

Alterations to the manor house have been minimal. A fire escape has been added to the southwest corner of the central block, ca. 1975. One room in the east wing has been partitioned to create two rooms.

Outbuildings: The nominated property includes four outbuildings also in the Shavian Manorial style and constructed at the same time as the manor house. Numerous other structures, some predating the Ellises, are also included.

The carriage house consists of two buildings on either side of a walled courtyard. The building is of brick, one story, with a gable-on-hip slate roof. A dovecote stands on the roof ridge. The front building, which was designed as a generator/ well house and the gatekeeper's residence, has an entrance pavilion with a cross-gable. An iron mask, identical to the masks displayed on the chimneys of the manor house, is centered on the gable end. The second building, on the other side of the courtyard, housed numerous carriages.

The dog house is a one story brick building, with a slate gable-on-hip roof. The building is designed to house fifteen dogs in private kennels. An interior chimney has coursed slate shoulderings. A casement window on the south side of the building has a set of linenfold-carved shutters.

Continued

The guest house is a one story brick building with a slate gable roof. Two exterior end chimneys have coursed slate shoulderings. The building is currently used by the Girl Scouts as a "brownie bungalow."

The gate house is a one story brick residence, with a slate gable on hip roof. The building has a central brick chimney with coursed slate shoulderings. The house is used as the plantations manager's residence.

A one story log house on the property was reportedly built by the Ellises. This building has two end chimneys, a shed-roofed front porch, and casement windows. A formal garden, with pierced brick walls and wrought-iron gates, also dates from the Ellis period. Mrs. George A. Ellis raised camillias in this garden.

Three one-story frame cabins on the property apparently predate the Ellises. These cabins, known as Riverview, Hilltop, and Stono, are weatherboarded, with brick foundation piers and brick chimneys. Non-historic buildings on the property include the Girl Scout Dining Hall, a horse stable, and several shower houses, necessary houses and sheds.

Cemetery: The Harleston-Rutledge cemetery predates the Ellises. This cemetery contains nine gravestones, including that of John Harleston, the original developer of the plantation, within its brick walls. Two wrought iron gates permit entry. The legible stones date from 1793 to 1851. The stonecutters include R. White of Charleston. A brick well and a brick-lined square pit, reportedly an indigo vat, also date from the Harleston-Rutledge period.

Archeological Features: In addition to outbuildings, there are a number of archeological features associated with the original Richmond Plantation. These include the site of the Richmond Plantation House, which burned around 1900, foundations from what probably is an early rice mill, earthworks associated with rice cultivation, old ricefields and trunks, and the sites of the plantation's slave dwellings. The latter are represented by abundant artifactual remains, as is the site of the original plantation house. It is expected that buried remains from other outbuildings and features associated with the earlier rice plantation are also present.

the Ellises established a hunting lodge at Richmond. Besides the manor house, completed ca. 1927, they constructed a paddock and stable, dog kennels, and numerous other outbuildings. Also the owners of estates in Virgina and New York, the Ellises spent several months of each winter at Richmond Plantation. After the death of Mrs. Ellis in 1956 the plantation was purchased by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. In 1963 the company sold approximately 153 acres, including the manor house, to the Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council. Presently, the Girl Scouts maintain the property as a camp.

Architecture: The Richmond Plantation Manor House, designed by the New York City architectural firm of Clinton and Russell ca. 1925, is an American interpretation of the Shavian Manorial Style, a style defined by the neo-medieval work of the English architect Richard Norman Shaw. The style is characterized by the high-pitched slate roof and the broad brick chimney stacks, which dominate the low masonry mass of the building. The asymmetrical plan, the casement windows, and the heavy timber framing of the porches contribute to the medieval nature of the style. The desire to incorporate the ancient paneling and mantels into the new building may have predicated the choice of style.

Richmond Plantation Manor House is also significant for the high quality of the craftsmanship, as demonstrated by the gauged flat arches with their coursed slate keystones, the coursed slate shoulderings in the chimney stacks, and the incorporation of ancient architectural elements in the newer building. The stylistic and compositional relationship of the manor house and its outbuildings is also significant.

Archeology: Based on field observation of archeological features, such as the original Richmond Plantation House site or the site of the plantation's slave dwellings, and on an inspection of some of the artifacts recovered from these features, it is clear that useful information about past life on Richmond Plantation can be recovered. Generally, the research domains to which this information should apply involve social and economic structure on an early rice plantation and the functional aspects of operating such a plantation. Study of variations in the material well-being (including diet) between and among planters, overseers and slaves or an examination of the nature of the plantation's material culture, such as its irrigation system, rice mill or simply its tool inventory, are among the more specific topics that might be addressed.

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