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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Drayton Hall

AND/OR COMMON: Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: State Route 61

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Charleston __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 001

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	X WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

work in progress

NAME: The National Trust for Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER: 740-746 Jackson Place (Headquarters)

CITY, TOWN: Washington __ VICINITY OF

STATE: D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: (RMC) Registrar of Mesnes and Conveyances

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 726

CITY, TOWN: Charleston

STATE: South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE: 1974

X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints & Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

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

John Drayton, a memor of the King's Council, acquired the land on which Drayton Hall was built in 1738, and the building is thought to have been completed in the following four years. It is known that his son, William Henry Drayton, was born there in 1742. Perhaps because of their relatively comfortable position in South Carolina society at this early date, the Draytons were able to invest in the house a degree of architectural elaboration very rare in America in the first half of the eighteenth century. The house has a most distinctive monumentality achieved through its spacious four-room plan and the somewhat vertical proportions of its two-story elevation on a high English basement capped by a double hipped roof. It seems somewhat probable that the hand of a designer or gentleman architect was at work in Drayton Hall, although definite evidence of that fact remains to be found.

The 70' x 52' structure features a carefully-proportioned projecting two-story pedimented portico with superposed Doric and Ionic orders on the western (land) side. Not employed elsewhere in the American colonies until decades later, this element derives from Andrea Palladio's second book of architecture. The high basement and parallel flights of stone steps further enhance the dignity of this impressive facade.

The east or "river" facade, lacks a projecting portico, or even a pavilion, but it has a classical central pediment to emphasize the main axis. The center entrance door and three windows over it, set under the east pediment, are framed by pilasters and topped by triangular and segmental pediments, executed like the west portico, in finely carved white Portland stone imported from England. The east door is also approached by a fine double flight of stone steps.

Most of the rooms on the inside are fully panelled and the mantel pieces and classical cornices throughout are the highest quality. The house further features rich plaster detailing in the ceilings, and a remarkable fully-panelled richly-carved double staircase. The two interior chimneys are placed somewhat to the west of center, creating at the east end on both north and south sides, those rooms of the largest size and the greatest formality. The basement was used as a kitchen, office, storage space, and servant's hall.

It is important to note that the plantation house was part of a composition completed by two flanking, symmetrically placed dependencies, and an adjoining forecourt. Only the foundations of these buildings remain today.

It is more than likely that in the near future, scholars will have available to them a thorough, detailed study of the building and its history, done by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, its owner since 1974.

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	XXARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1738-42 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Drayton Hall is without question one of the finest of all surviving plantation houses in America. Its early date, 1738-42, makes its architectural sophistication all the more remarkable. It is far in advance of the great Virginia Georgian plantation houses for which those of South Carolina have a natural affinity. Because Drayton Hall has been barely touched with "improvements" in the ensuing 200 years, it remains for us one of the most treasured of eighteenth century structures.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 785 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	587450	3636740
B	17	586565	3635565
C	17	585495	3636620
D	17	585940	3638315
E	17	587460	3637695

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; boundary by Cornelius W. Heine, Horace Sheely, Charles Herrington

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE
August 1976

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE
523-5464

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.

Landmark Designated: Oct. 9, 1960

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Boundary Certified: July 20, 1977 (date)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/20/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1. Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952
2. Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America, Chapel Hill, 1950
3. Great Georgian Houses of America, 2 vols., 1933-37
4. Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York, 1922
5. Harriet K. Leiding, Historic Houses of South Carolina, Philadelphia, 1921
6. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State, American Guide Series, New York, 1941
7. Samuel G. Stoney, Plantations of the Carolina Low Country, Charleston, 1939
8. Elise Lathrop, Historic Houses of Early America, New York, 1936
9. Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans, New York, 1955
10. Talbot F. Hamlin, The American Spirit in Architecture, New Haven, 1926
11. Fiske Kimball, American Architecture, Indianapolis, 1928
12. Samuel and Narrissa Chamberlain, Southern Interiors of Charleston, South Carolina, New York, n.d., large photos. 158-163

Verbal Boundary Description

The national historic landmark boundary for Drayton Hall has been drawn to enclose Drayton Hall and grounds which are of primary importance, plus enough of the surrounding area to provide a setting and unintruded vista of the Ashley River from the Drayton Hall property, totaling approximately 785 acres, much of which is heavily wooded or marshland.

Generally, the national historic landmark boundary on the southwest runs 200 feet southwest of Ashley River Road for approximately three-quarters of a mile to protect the row of trees approaching the entrance to Drayton Hall, on the southeast stretches across the Ashley River to a point downriver about three-quarters of a mile from the riverbank in front of Drayton, then 200 feet behind the treeline on the northeast riverbank opposite Drayton Hall, then upriver to the northwest to protect the river vista for about three-quarters of a mile from the front of Drayton Hall.

Beginning at a point 200 feet south of a point on Ashley River Road about 3200 feet southeast of the entrance road to Drayton Hall, the national historic landmark boundary proceeds approximately north 45° east about 2800 feet; then approximately south 39° east for approximately 825 feet; then approximately north 44° east for approximately 1270 feet to the south bank of the creek; then along the south bank of the creek approximately 1300 feet to its intersection with the Ashley River, then approximately north 48° east for about 1000 feet across Ashley River to a point 200 feet northeast of the treeline on the northeast bank of the river; then on a line parallel to and 200 feet northeast of the treeline on the northeast bank of the river for approximately 10,500 feet; then due west about 750 feet across the Ashley River to the west river bank; then in a general southeasterly direction along the west bank of the river for approximately 3300 feet; then approximately south 48° west for approximately 3700 feet to a point about 200 feet southwest of Ashley River Road, then in a line parallel to and 200 feet southwest of Ashley River Road for about 4200 feet in a southeasterly direction to the beginning point.