

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE 12/11/22

1. NAME	
COMMON: Magnolia Gardens	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Magnolia-on-the Ashley	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: S.C. Highway 61, 10 miles NW of Charleston, S.C. on the Ashley River			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston Vicinity (see continuation sheet)			
STATE South Carolina	CODE 45	COUNTY: Charleston	CODE 019

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Garden Nursery
Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: C. Norwood Hastie and J. Drayton Hastie			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route #4			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Mesne Conveyance			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 Court House Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: S.C. Preliminary Survey of Historic Places			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: S.C. Department of Archives and History			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,128 Capitol Station			
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally granted during South Carolina's Proprietary period, the tract of land which now forms Magnolia Gardens served as the ancestral residence of the Drayton family for over ten generations. Yet, this estate was not to develop its magnificent gardens fully until the mid-nineteenth century when the Reverend John Grimke Drayton decided to begin planting numerous specimens of imported *Cemellia Japonica* (1843) and *Azalea Indica* (1848). After developing tuberculosis in 1851, the Reverend Mr. Drayton, upon the advice of his doctor, turned his whole efforts toward landscaping the gardens and surroundings. Although azaleas and camellias are the primary plants within the gardens, there are also other varieties, native as well as imported, which have been tastefully used as background. Tremendous magnolia trees are scattered throughout the area. Also, paths wind among the plantings giving the visitors an exceptional view of the flowers and of the wide vistas overlooking the Ashley River. Numerous fresh water lakes throughout the gardens serve as a preserve for alligators and water fowl. Diked rice fields, a reminder of the original plantation's main crop, provide an additional sanctuary for wildlife.

The gardens, given to Reverend J.G. Drayton by his grandfather, Thomas Drayton, originally consisted of 1,872 acres but became much smaller after the Civil War when all but 390 acres were sold. Of the remaining 390 acres, 25 comprise the gardens of John Grimke Drayton; 16 acres comprise the spacious lawn surrounding an avenue of live oaks; and 150 acres are reserved as a marsh and wild fowl conservatory. Since 1941, the remaining 199 acres have been used as an ornamental plant nursery, which has become one of the largest wholesale-retail nurseries in the Southeast. The nursery helps support the gardens.

Magnolia Gardens has had three plantation homes built on its grounds since its beginning. Both the original and the second home located there were destroyed by fire. The present home, built in 1873, is a one-and-a-half story stucco construction which includes a raised basement and tower. Highsteps lead to a piazza which is supported by Doric columns and enclosed with a balustrade. A two story, stucco tower is set in a gable roof which also features gabled dormers. The tower is topped by a bellcast roof with finial. Tower facade has five windows; three on the upper level and two on the lower level. House also features a tri-segmented bay window located on first floor facade.

Nomination includes seven wooden slave cabins, the Drayton vault, and plantation house, in addition to the gardens and nursery.

This 390 acre tract needs National Register status to protect it against the possible widening of S.C. Highway 61 and to make the gardens eligible for the newly enacted South Carolina legislation which exempts National Register properties from the state admissions tax.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ losophyHorticulture☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☒ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☒ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☒ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Magnolia Gardens, which consists of 390 of the original 1,872 acres, has a long heritage that dates back as far as 1672 when Morris Mathews, one of the first settlers to arrive in the province, received a warrant for 750 acres of land which eventually became part of the Drayton estate and Magnolia Gardens. Located just outside of Charleston, a city which attracts many visitors because of its historical importance, Magnolia Gardens plays an important role in the continued success of the area's tourism. As the only private wild fowl sanctuary in the Charleston County area, the gardens are significant in helping protect the wildlife in this area. It is also significant that the Reverend John G. Drayton planted many of the first camellias in South Carolina and through hybridization developed numerous new varieties.

Conservation: Magnolia Gardens is the only private wild fowl sanctuary in the Charleston County area. This sanctuary also provides refuge for alligators and other freshwater animals.

Landscape Architecture: The gardens created by the Reverend John G. Drayton are spectacular and their beauty is a constant reminder of his arduous work and dedication. (Attached bibliography provides many complimentary articles.)

Commerce: Magnolia Gardens has greatly helped the extremely important tourist trade of Charleston. By extensive publication and promotion since 1872, the gardens continue to attract thousands of visitors to Charleston each year. The gardens are partially supported by revenue from a large wholesale-retail nursery located within the acreage nominated.

Horticulture: The continued propagation of many varieties of Camellia Japonica and development of new varieties is significant in the development of the floral character so thoroughly associated with the South Carolina Low Country. Magnolia Gardens was instrumental in developing the many varieties of camellias that can be found throughout the state today.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Briggs, Loutrell, Charleston Gardens. University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S.C., 1951, pp. 123-127.
 Bunce, O.B., "Charleston and Its Suburbs." Picturesque America; or The Land We Live In. Edited by William Cullen Bryant. D. Appleton and Company, New York, 1872, Vol. 1, p. 208.
 Duncan, Frances, "Magnolia Gardens." Century Magazine. The Century Co., New York, Vol. LXXIV, New Series Vol. LII, August 1907, pp. 513-519.

(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NE	32	53	10	80	05	33		
SE	32	53	10	80	04	32		
SW	32	52	08	80	04	32		
	32	52	08	80	05	33		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 390 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elias B. Bull (Bernard Kearse - State Archives)

ORGANIZATION: Berkeley - Charleston - Dorchester Regional Council DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Charles E. Lee

Title

Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Charleston	
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(Number all entries)

MAGNOLIA GARDENS- 2. Location: Continuation Sheet #1

Bounded north and east by the Ashley River; southeast by parcel of land belonging to J.D. Hastie; southwest by S.C. Highway 61; west by parcel of land belonging to C.C. Pinckney.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
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(Number all entries)

MAGNOLIA GARDENS

9. Major Bibliographical References - Continuation Sheet #1

- Frost, Paul, "Magnolia and Its Significance." House Beautiful. August, 1923.
- Galsworthy, John, "A Hedonist." The Century Magazine. The Century Co., New York, Vol CII, New Series Vol. LXXX, July 1921, p. 323.
- Grant, Alyne, "Charleston." The American Camellia Yearbook, 1953. Edited by Arthur C. Brown and Austin Griffiths, American Camellia Society, Gainesville, Fla.; The R.L. Bryan Co., Columbia, South Carolina, 1953, pp. 287-289.
- Hastie, C. Norwood, "Magnolia Gardens." The American Camellia Yearbook, 1948. Edited by R.J. Wilmot, Gainesville, Fla., pp. 52-58.
- Hume, H. Harold, Gardening in the Lower South. The MacMillan Co., New York, 1929, p. 225.
- Hume, H. Harold, Camellias in America. J. Horace McFarland Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1946, pp. 45-47, 197.
- Lashley, Dolores C., Legacy of Beauty. The State Printing Co., Columbia, S.C., 1969, pp. 1-138.
- Lee, Frederic P., The Azalea Book. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc, N.Y., 1963, pp. 152, 154, 157, 159-160.
- McKennon, Winoa, "Magnolia on the Ashley." The South. Feb. 1947.
- Price, Kate Hammond, "Magnolia Gardens" Stone and Webster Journal. pp. 353-360.
- Shaffer, E.T.H., Carolina Gardens. The University of North Carolina Press, Second Edition, 1939, pp. 65-69.
- Shelton, Louise, Beautiful Gardens in America. Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y. 1924, pp. 235-236, plates 112, 113.
- Smith, Henry A.M., "The Ashley River: Its Seats and Settlements." The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. XX pp. 96-97.
- Woolson, Constance Fenimore, "Up the Ashley and Cooper." Harper's New Monthly Magazine, December, 1875 - May, 1876 Harper and Brothers, New York, 1876, p. 2.