

NATIONAL 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
MAR 30 1973

1. NAME
COMMON:
Marshlands Plantation House
AND/OR HISTORIC:
2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: On the north side of Fort Sumter Drive about 1/10th of a mile before the end of the street, on Fort Johnson tract, James Island
CITY OR TOWN:
James Island
STATE
South Carolina
CODE
45
COUNTY:
Charleston
CODE
019

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object
OWNERSHIP
☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both
Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered
STATUS
☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☒ Scientific
STATE OWNED MARINE
CENTER OFFICES

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
South Carolina Marine Resources Center
STREET AND NUMBER:
South Carolina Wildlife Commission
1015 Main Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia
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:
South Carolina Survey of Historic Places, Preliminary Survey
DATE OF SURVEY:
1969
☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street
P. O. Box 11188 Capitol Station
CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia
STATE:
South Carolina
CODE
45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: This two-and-one-half story clapboard house resting on high brick foundations has remained basically unaltered since it was built in 1810. Brick foundations and chimneys, however, were taken apart and re-constructed (with the exception of one chimney) following a 1961 move of approximately seven miles.

Basement level of main facade features an arcade of eight high brick arches. (Two corner arches were formerly enclosed.) Also resting on arched foundations is a steep, straight brick stairway.

First floor piazza extends the width of the house. Presently screened and enclosed by a balustrade, the piazza has the original hipped roof with dentils on the soffit of the eaves. Supporting the wide porch are eight slender freestanding columns and two identical engaged columns.

Behind the piazza the facade proper has a central doorway flanked on each side by a pair of evenly spaced windows.

On the second level there are five identical windows. A pair of nine-over-nine-light, double hung sash windows are located on each side of a central window. Louvered shutters have not been replaced following the 1961 move.

On the hipped front roof of the house is a centrally located, gable window which is decorated with dentils and contains a semi-elliptical, radiating fanlight. This gable is flanked on either side by two hipped roof dormers containing slip-sill windows.

Varying from the main facade, the rear of the house has a central ten foot square open portico on high brick foundations. On each side of the portico at basement level are two windows. A steep eighteen riser stairway on arcaded foundations leads to the square portico. Both stairway and portico are surrounded by an iron railing (formerly a wooden balustrade.) Portico is protected by a curved hood roof and supported by four slender wooden columns, two of which are engaged.

As in the main facade, the back door is flanked by two pairs of nine-over-nine-light, double-hung sash windows. Topped by a five-paned transom, the doorway is framed by rectangular tracery sidelights. The back entrance opens into the one story clapboard extension.

Second level follows the house's five window pattern.

Rear slope of the roof served as the location for the two original interior chimneys, one of which was damaged and has not been replaced since the 1961 move. A dormer in the palladian style with intersecting tracery is centrally placed in roof line.

Identical side facades consist of four evenly spaced windows on the basement level, three windows on first level, and two windows on second level. There is a hipped gabled dormer set in roof on each side.

Interior: Entrance opens into a spacious hall which is flanked on either side by two rooms. Front hall is ornamented by an elaborate acanthus leaf cornice and a plaster ceiling medallion. This hall contains an open-string stairway with mahogany chair-rail and paneled wainscoting. A mahogany bannister and ornamental brackets under the treads also decorate the stairway.

The hand-carved woodwork in the east front room is a valuable example of Adam ornamentation. East room fireplace, rectangular with a marble

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1810

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Marshlands house is a valuable example of a plantation home built during the Federal period. The interior floor plan, the large front piazza, and the high brick foundations reflect the location and period of construction as well as the life style of the owner.

The handcarved woodwork is outstanding and especially noteworthy because of the presence of two distinct styles: Adam ornamentation and gouge work. The gouge carving is described by Samuel Gaillard Stoney in his Plantations of the Carolina Low Country as "lavish and excellently executed."

Agricultural Significance: Marshlands was built during the crest of expanding rice production after the Revolution. A new system of flooding the fields and the invention of a rice mill contributed to the wealth of the rice planter, undermined only later when cotton replaced rice as the state's most valuable crop. John Ball was among those who had benefitted from the ready market and more efficient means of production when he commissioned the construction of a house on the Cooper River in 1810. Profits from rice found an aesthetic expression in the architectural value and elegance of Marshlands plantation house.

The original 213 acre tract was sold to Nathaniel Heyward in 1819. Heyward, who owned fifteen plantations in addition to Marshlands, played a leading role in rice production in antebellum South Carolina. Following his death in 1851, his estate was assessed at over \$3 million, at that time the largest in the state.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Irving, John B. A Day on the Cooper River. Enlarged and edited by Louisa Cheves Stoney. Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1969, p.13.
 Leiding, Harriette Kershaw. Historic Houses of South Carolina. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1921, pp. 18-20.
 South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. Charleston: South Carolina Historical Society, Volume 59, p.156; Volume 19, pp.54-56.
 Stoney, Samuel Gaillard (editor). Plantations of the Carolina Low Country. Charleston: Carolina Art Association, 1964, p.77.
 Wallace, D. D. The History of South Carolina. Volume II. New York: American Historical Society, 1934, p.438 & 477.

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 | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 32 ° 45 ' 0.8" | 79 ° 54 ' 03.3" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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: | | <u>Caroline Dixon</u> <u>Historic Preservation Assistant</u> | |
| ORGANIZATION | DATE | | |
| <u>South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History</u> | <u>July 19, 1972</u> | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | |
| <u>1430 Senate Street</u> | <u>11188 Capitol Station</u> | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE | CODE | |
| <u>Columbia</u> | <u>South Carolina</u> | <u>45</u> | |

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 & History

Date SEP 6 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/30/73

ATTEST:
Wm. R. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.26.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | |
| South Carolina | |
| COUNTY | |
| Charleston | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAR 30 1973 |

(Number all entries)

MARSHLANDS PLANTATION HOUSE

#7 DESCRIPTION (Interior)

surround, is framed by pilasters decorated in a wheat ear-drop pattern. Above the pilasters is an ornate three panel frieze. A goddess bearing sheaves of rice, surrounded by a foliated scroll pattern, forms the central tablet. On each side is a panel with floral and swag design. All three tablets are framed by end blocks decorated with mythological figures holding agricultural instruments. Above the frieze is a dentate cornice and mantel shelf.

Identical six-panel doors on each side of fireplace are framed by fluted pilasters. Above the door and pilasters is a dentate cornice and a three-panel gouge-work entablature. Central raised panel is a fan design and is flanked by two panels in a wave molding pattern. These frieze panels are framed by end blocks with a vertical sunburst design.

Wall decoration includes an elaborate cornice, paneled wainscoting, and a chair-rail, carved in alternating rectangular blocks of a sunburst ellipse followed by a garland design on fluted background.

In the west room central panel of the fireplace frieze bears a carving of a Roman tomb. Cornices are of a scroll design alternating every three or four inches with a square metope which formerly contained a small rosette, although most have now disappeared.

The two second story rooms are noted for their fine gouge carving, contrasting with the more formal Adam enrichments in lower level rooms. Gouge work, deeply niched symmetrical designs, is recognized as a more indigenous American style than the Adam decoration. In 1810 the inaccessibility of Adam mantels due to embargoes and other obstacles to trade with Britain might have influenced the builder's selection of the simpler gouge carving.

Directly above second floor rooms are two rooms on the third level which have no interior carving.

Surroundings: The original Cooper River location of Marshlands plantation house is now part of a United States Navy Yard. Dry dock expansion threatened Marshlands with destruction, and in 1961 chimneys and brick foundations were dismantled and the house transported by barge across Charleston Harbor.

The present site is a forty acre tract on James Island known as Fort Johnson. A National Register nomination, Fort Johnson is located about three miles southeast of Charleston. Present owner is the South Carolina Marine Resources Center. Plans of the Marine Center that anticipate using Marshlands for office space threaten the house with a certain loss of integrity. It is felt that National Register status would prevent detrimental changes to the original fabric of the house.

