

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**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	
	JUN 19 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Peter's Point Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Peter's Point Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .10 miles south of the Edisto Island Post Office on S.C. Hwy. 174; turn west on county highway 764; house at end of road.

CITY OR TOWN:
Edisto Island

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>not in use</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: George L. Mikell

STREET AND NUMBER: 1770 Woods Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Florence STATE: South Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 Courthouse Square

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: South Carolina Statewide Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

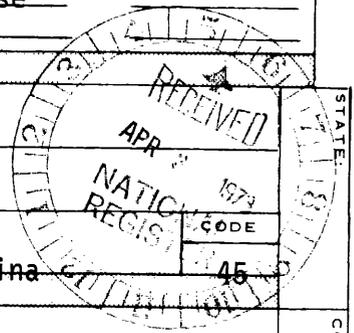
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: S.C. Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY: CHARLESTON

ENTRY NUMBER: 19

DATE: JUN 19 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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

This two-story, rectangular dwelling has a low gabled roof with a pedimented boxed cornice and two five-flue chimneys which are off-set from the ridge of the roof. It is supported by a high foundation of brick and tabby. The front facade is sheltered by a double piazza. Eight Tuscan columns of slender proportions are evenly spaced on both levels and support the double piazza. Two of the eight columns per floor are engaged. A balustrade encloses the piazzas of the facade.

The facade's two main floors are identical, consisting of a central doorway flanked on either side by a pair of 9/9 light, double-sash windows with paneled shutters. The double piazza rests on a brick, Flemish bond, arcaded foundation which extends from the basement. The lower piazza has been screened in recent years.

Identical side facades feature four evenly-spaced windows per floor and a semielliptical wooden inset centered in the gable. The rear facade is similar to the front but has a one-story, hipped roof piazza instead of the double piazza and a central window with sidelights on the second level rather than a doorway. The right side of the rear piazza has been enclosed to form an additional room. The piazza is supported by slender columns similar to those of the front facade and rests on freestanding, tabby-over-brick pillars.

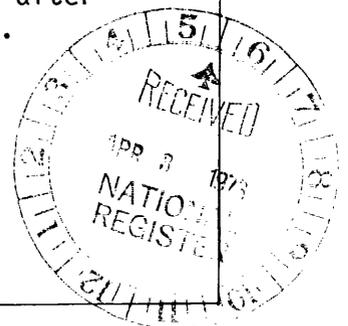
The basement area appears to have been enclosed when the house was constructed since the bonding of the walls and foundations are both Flemish.

Wide, straight brick staircases with treads of brown sandstone and solid stepped copings lead to both front and rear entrances.

The interior arrangement of the main floors is that of four rooms divided into pairs by a central hallway with each room entering directly into the hall. The most notable interior feature is a wide central staircase which leads to a landing in the rear of the hall and then branches into two smaller symmetrical staircases leading to the second-floor hall.

Major alterations to the exterior of the structure include the enclosure of the right side of the rear piazza and the screening of the lower front piazza. The original mantels disappeared after the family vacated the dwelling in 1861 during the Civil War. After the war, plain wooden mantels were installed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

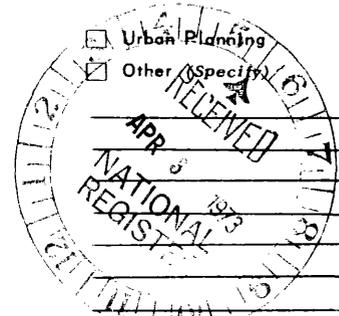
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1840**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 checked="" 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

The Mikell family arrived on Edisto Island before the close of the seventeenth century and were well-established planters before I. Jenkins Mikell built Peter's Point plantation house in 1840. Situated overlooking St. Helena Sound at the junction of St. Pierre's Creek and Fishing Creek, the house possesses a picturesque view and a commanding setting. The site also marks the point of Lafayette's departure from the island in 1826. The architectural design of the structure combines the style of the early Edisto Island plantation home and the Greek revival style of the Charleston area in this period. Mikell, a Princeton graduate, became one of the wealthiest planters in South Carolina; however, he shunned political life, serving only as a magistrate and commissioner of the public schools of Edisto.

Architectural Significance: Mikell built Peter's Point at a time when the basic design of the plantation home stressed function over extravagance, and when most wealthy planters maintained a more elaborate town house in Charleston. It was designed in keeping with the typical early 19th-Century Edisto Island homes, built to serve as residences for the working plantation. However, the double piazzas are representative of the Charleston influence, and the overall architectural design reflects the Greek revival style which was so popular at the time. Peter's Point shows the transitional stage between the functional plantation house of the early 1800s and the grandiose plantation dwellings of the 1850s. Mikell's town house, located on Rutledge Avenue, has a wide portico supported by six heroic Corinthian columns and is a dwelling of massive proportions. Its elegance and grandiose style contrast greatly with the relative simplicity of Peter's Point.

Agricultural Significance: The Peter's Point Plantation consisted of 2,200 acres of land by 1860. Its estimated annual production of 70,000 pounds of ginned cotton made it one of the largest producers of sea island cotton in the United States. It seems to have been representative of the large self-sufficient southern plantation with its 225 slaves working the cotton fields as well as cultivating grains and vegetables and tending livestock needed for the subsistence of the plantation population.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wallace, D.D., The History of South Carolina, Biographical Volume. New York: the American Historical Society, 1934.

_____, The Eighth Agricultural Census of the United States, 1860

Graydon, Nell S. Tales of Edisto. R.L. Bryan Company, Columbia, S.C. 1955.

Mikell, Isaac Jenkins. The Rumbling of Chariot Wheels, Columbia, The State Publishing Company, 1923.

Stoney, Samuel, ed. Plantations of the South Carolina Low Country. Carolina Art Association, Charleston, S.C. 1964.

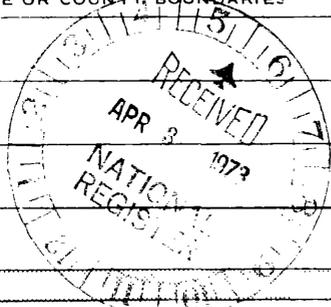
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	32°	32'	17"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	80°	20'	39"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4 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, Historical Researcher (Sharon Goff - Archives)

ORGANIZATION: **Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council** DATE: **Feb. 8, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: **Charleston** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: _____

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
Charles E. Lee

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date March 28, 1973

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

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

Date 6/19/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 6 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Charleston	
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	JUN 19 1973

(Number all entries)

Peter's Point Plantation

8. Significance

Landscaping Significance: The life style of the planters of Edisto Island was one of luxury. One of the owner's projects was the landscaping of grounds surrounding the house. His son, I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr., later described these grounds as follows in this quote from his book, The Rumbling of Chariot Wheels, a collection of sketches about his boyhood life on Edisto Island:

I see before me that grand old house, its groves of oranges, its figs, its pomegranates, its jujubees, with its extensive grounds of ornamental shrubs and imported cedars, trimmed into fantastic shapes by a master hand - all enclosed with moss, covered with live oaks, on a point where two rivers meet on their journey to the sea, three miles away, with not a tree to obstruct the view. I must not forget the artificial fish pond... It combined beauty and utility in a marked degree...It was a parallelogram having one of its long sides bricked up on the shore side, and a grove of immense live oaks overshadowing it. The other three sides were dykes reclaiming it from the river, planted with salt water cedars for beautifying the walks and to protect it from erosion...There were several Venetian bridges thrown across it and small islands covered with fancy shrubbery scattered at intervals over its area, each island about the size of a medium dwelling room on which diminutive Chinese 'tea gardens' were built, reached only by a little skiff.

Today, Peter's point stands stately and serene in a setting of palmettoes and huge moss-draped oaks.

