

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
		JAN 8 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Willtown Bluff

AND/OR HISTORIC: Wilton, New London

2. LOCATION SW

STREET AND NUMBER: Five miles west of Adams Run Community, just beyond the
end of County Highway 55 on banks of S. Edisto River

CITY OR TOWN: Adams Run

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

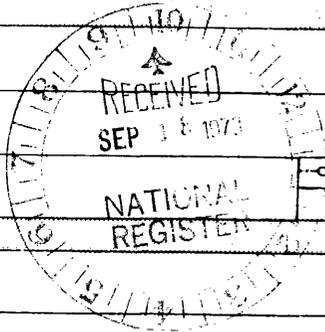
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Various

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Preliminary Historical Survey of Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Counties

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Office of Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council and Governments

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

JAN 8 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Willtown was located on a 25 foot high bluff overlooking the South Edisto River, called the Pon Pon River in the 18th Century. The town site is almost all level, its lawn interspersed with large oak trees. Only the northern section is wooded and three buildings are located on the cleared portion.

The Parsonage was built without a cellar in 1836 by the Episcopalians. Its portico was altered and wings added to the house some ten years ago. This building occupies the upper parts of lots #10 and #11 and a garage is on lot ##24.

Willtown Plantation House (at one time called New Hope) was built in 1820 for Lewis Morris, IV, son of the only New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence. The original high brick foundations have since been removed and additions have been made on the river or western side. The front porch is also changed. The building is said to have been used as a hospital by Confederate troops in 1863.

There is a two-room summer house on the waterfront in front of lot #18. It was probably built during the last thirty years and is not shown on the map.

Between the summer house and the Willtown Plantation House is a ten foot high, semi-circular earthen fortification, which is thought to date from the War Between the States. It has been cut through to allow access to the summer house.

In 1820 the Presbyterians rebuilt their church, but it had burned by 1834. The Episcopalians purchased the location and erected a church in 1836. This structure was moved to Adams Run in 1879 and only a single column remains at the original site.

Unexposed remains are of a colonial village thought to have had 80 houses. Title search has uncovered 11 houses, 2 churches, and a large store. A village existed here in the late 19th Century.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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) **1697, 1704, 1714**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Willtown was the second planned town to be established after the relocation of Charleston in 1682. It was one of two South Carolina precincts prior to the 1706 Church Act, and after that date served as a local governmental center. It was militarily important in the protection of the frontier and served as a regional commercial center.

Architecture: This site is of archeological significance in the exploration of the methods and types of construction in a colonial frontier town through a late 19th Century village.

Commerce: Records document the importance of the area as a regional source town with merchants, carpenters, a banker, and a guide/Indian trader.

Education: A free school was founded about 1722.

Military: A fort to guard the frontier was established during the early part of the Yamassee War with a garrison of some 50 men. 60 scouts and their boats were also based here. An unsuccessful Indian attack resulted in the burning of one residence.

In 1739 men from the Willtown Presbyterian Church suppressed the Stono Slave Rebellion which led to the enactment of a more complex slave code.

Political: Prior to the passage of the Church Act of 1706, Willtown was one of two precincts in Colonial South Carolina. After 1706, it served as a polling place, had a court of pleas, and had magistrate courts. Some residents of note were Governors Joseph Morton and Joseph Blake; Lt. Governor William Bull; Commons House of Assembly member James Cochran; and South Carolina Chief Justice Thomas Hepworth.

A mail route seems to have connected Charleston and Willtown.

Religion: The Anglican Dissenter religious controversy was felt in Willtown, with John Ash of the Commons House of Assembly going to England to present the Dissenter grievances before the Lords Proprietors. The Church Act of 1706 followed.

Transportation: A private ferry was located at the end of Chelsey Road.

Urban Planning: Willtown was the second planned town to be formally laid out after Charleston was relocated. The town was divided into 62 blocks with most having four one acre lots. There were 17 streets with blocks set aside for an Episcopal Church and a school. A market and a town garden were also provided locations.

Black History: See Military History.

Social/Humanitarianism: Willtown Plantation House seems to have been used as a Confederate hospital during the War Between the States.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howe, George, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina.
 Duffie & Chapman, Columbia, 1870, Vol. I, pp. 202, 320.
 Howe, George, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina,
 W.J. Duffie, Columbia, S.C., 1883, Vol. II, pp. 62-63, 231, 335.
 Smith, Henry A.M., "Willtown or New London". South Carolina Historical
 and Genealogical Magazine, 1909, Vol. 10, pp. 20-32.
 Simmons, Slann Legare Clement, (Ed.), "Records of the Willtown Presby-
 terian Church, 1747-1841." South Carolina Historical Magazine,
 1960, Vol. II, pp. 7, 53, 64, 101, 137, 274 - 275.

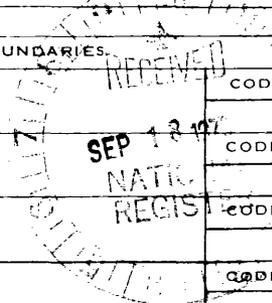
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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	47	10	80	25	05			
NE	32	41	10	80	24	32			
SE	32	40	31	80	24	32			
SW	32	40	31	80	25	05			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 127.32 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elias B. Bull, Historical Preservation Planner, William H. Brabham
 ORGANIZATION: Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council of Governments, Historic Preservation Div
 STREET AND NUMBER: 2 Court House Square
 CITY OR TOWN: Charleston 29401 STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045
 DATE: July 24, 1973

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 Sept 4, 1973

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

AK Morsensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/8/74

ATTEST:
Charles E. Lee
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN-7-74