

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 21 1975  
DATE ENTERED JAN 18 1975SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ashley Hall Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

X VINCINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Charleston

CODE

019

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives &amp; History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☒ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[REDACTED] The nominated property includes: (1) the ruins of a 1704 plantation house and gardens, (2) the original house built in the early 1670s, (3) the monument to the second Governor William Bull erected ca. 1791, (4) two prehistoric Indian sites, and two 18th Century well sites associated with the plantation. The property also includes several of the original fields.

(1) The ruins of the 1704 plantation house include brick foundation walls visible in the ground and the red sandstone steps added in 1853 by Colonel William Izard Bull, the last member of the Bull family to own the plantation. The house, built in 1704, was two stories high, built of rough brick, with a third floor added in the 19th Century. The house was no larger than thirty-five feet by forty-five feet, with a hipped roof and center cross-gable projection. There were three rooms on each floor, with a large central hall. The entrance faced away from the river, and the ruins are located [REDACTED]

In the 18th Century, a garden in the Italian style [REDACTED] of the 1704 house, beyond which was an open park. Presently the area of the garden is partially grassed over as the original garden was, and partially overgrown with trees and shrubs, many of which have grown from the original garden plants. Behind the 1704 house, [REDACTED] from which the city of Charleston can be seen in the distance.

(2) Still standing is the small tabby-walled house, built by Stephen Bull in the early 1670s, one of the oldest buildings [REDACTED] as well as one of the oldest buildings in the state. During the 18th Century the house served as an outbuilding for the plantation house and is presently the only outbuilding standing. The original tabby walls remain. In the 20th Century, a second story with asbestos siding was added to the house. A front porch has been created by the overhang of the second story. [REDACTED] ruins.

(3) The stone monument to the second Governor William Bull was erected by his widow ca. 1791. In the shape of an obelisk, the monument bears the governor's likeness and a commemorative plaque. [REDACTED]

(4) The first prehistoric Indian site is a mound [REDACTED] The mound was surmounted by a statue of Diana, which disappeared shortly after the War Between the States. In the 20th Century the mound was topped by a copy of the statue "Appeal to the Great Spirit," later damaged by vandals and removed.

(see continuation sheet)

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

### SPECIFIC DATES

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ashley Hall Plantation, established in the early 1670s, is one of the earliest settlements [REDACTED]. The plantation was established by Stephen Bull, an English settler who arrived in Carolina in 1670. Bull and his descendants who lived on the plantation were prominent in such diverse areas as government, science, engineering, agriculture, and military affairs. The Bull family lived at Ashley Hall until 1865, when the plantation house was burned to prevent its destruction by Union forces.

The Ashley Hall property contains one of the oldest standing houses in the state (ca. 1675) and the ruins of the Georgian house (1704) which was burned in 1865. The 18th Century gardens are no longer maintained, but the grounds are much the same as they were originally with open spaces, woods, shrubs, and an unobstructed view of the Ashley River and the city of Charleston beyond.

Several prehistoric Indian archeological sites are located on the property, and numerous Indian artifacts have been found on the plantation.

Numerous Indian artifacts--stone implements and sherds--have been found on the property. [REDACTED] A high concentration of artifacts [REDACTED] indicates that the area could have been an Indian settlement or gathering place.

Stephen Bull, in addition to being a trader and explorer, was prominent in diplomatic affairs between the colony and the various Indian tribes in the southeast during the 17th Century. In 1701 he was sent on a diplomatic mission to the Creeks and in 1696 he negotiated a treaty with the Cape Fear Indians. Bull was made a cassica (chief) of the Ettiawah Indians who lived in the Ashley River basin.

William Bull, the plantation's second resident, was active in Indian affairs during the 18th Century. He negotiated with the Creeks, the Cherokees, and the Yamacraws, and drew up a bill to regulate Indian trade.

William Bull, Jr. (the plantation's third resident) negotiated a treaty between the Catawba Indians (of South Carolina) and the six nations of the Iroquois Confederation. He signed a peace treaty with Attakulkulla (a Cherokee chieftain) at Ashley Hall, ending the Cherokee War of 1763.

AGRICULTURE: Stephen Bull, first resident of Ashley Hall, was one of the first plantation owners to grow rice in Carolina; he also conducted early experiments with tobacco, indigo, ginger, and potatoes. William, the plantation's second owner, raised

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Sirmans, M. Eugene, COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA: A POLITICAL HISTORY, 1663-1763. Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Va., University of North Carolina

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

John W. Califf - Historic Preservation Division

Eliam B. Bull

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE

2/26/75

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/27/75

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/5/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

JUN 3 1975

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[REDACTED]  
end of the nominated property. Numerous Indian projectile points and pottery sherds have been found here, indicating the presence of a site of intense Indian activity, such as a village or eating site.

(5) A well associated with the 1704 house [REDACTED]

well site [REDACTED]

SURROUNDINGS:

[REDACTED] but these houses are widely separated and do not interfere with the quiet environment of the historical area. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: many of the original fields remain. This area is planned for a housing development, which alters the surrounding acreage by increasing the level of traffic and the visual presence of modern buildings.

[REDACTED]

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cattle and corn and was one of four men appointed to a committee to investigate ways to improve the cultivation of rice. With his brothers, he seems to have been among the first colonists to go into the production of naval stores.

**ARCHITECTURE:** The tabby house still standing on the plantation grounds is one of the oldest structures in the state; it was built in the early 1670s. Its tabby walls are in good condition and support a 20th Century second-story addition. The 1704 plantation house had an unusual floorplan which included a central front projection with entry and stairs for all three stories. The structure was T shaped with three rooms to a floor. Early paintings indicate that the house was almost as high as wide, giving its proportions an extreme verticality.

**ART:** Ashley Hall was visited by Charleston watercolorist/miniaturist Charles Fraser, who painted several views of the plantation house ca. 1803.

**EDUCATION:** In 1770 William Bull, Jr. (the third resident) urged the legislature to improve the public schools; he also advocated the founding of a college in South Carolina. The product of this was the founding of the College of Charleston. Bull also promoted the establishment of schools at New Bordeaux, the Waxhaws, the Congarees, Camden, Broad River, and Ninety Six.

**ENGINEERING AND URBAN PLANNING:** Stephen Bull, the first resident, was appointed surveyor of South Carolina with two others in 1673 and Surveyor General from 1684 to 1685. He surveyed parish boundaries and land claims and worked on committees to apportion bridge building in the area of Colleton County. He is said to have taken a major part in designing Charles Town and James Town (James Island). The plans, however, no longer exist.

William Bull, the second resident, assisted in the planning of Savannah, resurveyed Charleston, laid out the township of Purrysburg on the Savannah River, and laid out the no longer existing town of Radnor on his own lands at the Combahee River.

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:** William Bull, avid although untrained botanist, entertained Mark Catesby, the botanist. According to Henry D. Bull, descendant of original owners of the plantation, "the grounds at Ashley Hall were notable. Near the house was a small lake about fifty feet across, surrounded by cypress trees and hydrangeas. An Indian mound was topped by a beautiful statue of Diana, placed there in 1770, and beyond it was a deer and elk park. The formal garden was laid out in the Italian style by the second Lieutenant Governor William Bull." Today the lake, trees, shrubs, and other evidences of the gardens remain.

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<sup>1</sup>SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. 53, p.62.

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**LITERATURE:** William Bull assisted Alexander Hewatt in writing an early history of South Carolina; he also wrote a detailed history of paper money.

**MILITARY:** Stephen Bull served as master of ordinance, captain, and engineer of the Charleston forts from 1671 until 1675. He laid out the new fortification lines around Charleston in February 1674; he was an officer of provincial forces (1687-1703).

William Bull, the second resident, was a captain in the Yemassee and Tuscarora Indian wars and, later, a colonel in the Berkeley County Regiment. During the Stono slave rebellion, Bull raised forces to defeat the armed slaves. In the Cherokee expedition of 1715, Bull was a captain of the militia. He also assisted General Oglethorpe in building forts at Savannah when it was founded; he was in command of the Georgia militia in 1736.

William Bull, Jr, the third resident, was a captain in the St. Augustine expedition. He was captain, later colonel, in the Regiment of the Horse (1740-1757) and brigadier of provincial forces (1751-1759). Bull accompanied Governor Lyttleton on an expedition against the Cherokees, organized forces to check the Cherokee invasions, and helped force their submission. The treaty ending the Cherokee War was signed with Attakulkulla in Stephen Bull's house (still extant).

**POLITICAL:** Stephen Bull helped to draw up the Masters & Servants Trading Act. He was a member of the Grand Council of South Carolina (1672-1674, 1675-1682, 1687, 1691, 1699); he was the Earl of Shaftesbury's first deputy (1699-1672); Lord Cornbury's deputy (1674-1682), Deputy of other proprietors (1684-1691). His other offices were Assistant Judge, Commissioner of Taxes, Sheriff of Berkeley County, Justice of the Peace, Register of Berkeley County (1695), Register of the Province (1696), member of the Commons House of Assembly (1700), and Judge of the Admiralty. While in the colonial government, Stephen Bull was responsible for establishing a county court, activating revised land policy (1685), and drawing up statutes to regulate weights and measures and the Charleston Watch. He was a member of committees to compile laws, activate public works, and to decide upon the advisability of attacking St. Augustine (1702).

William Bull, the second resident, was a member of the Commons House (1706-1719), the last proprietary council (1719), and the Grand Council (1721-1737). He was governor (1743-1755), as well as one of the first commissioners under the Church Act (1706). Bull assisted General Oglethorpe in the settlement of Georgia and in selecting the site for Savannah. General Oglethorpe (founder of the state of Georgia) visited with Bull at Ashley Hall in 1733.

William Bull, Jr. was Justice of the Peace, member of the Commons House (1736-1749), Assistant Judge and Speaker of the Commons (1740-1749), commissioner under the Church Act (1745), member of His Majesty's Council for South Carolina (1751), lieutenant governor (1759) and acting governor (1760-1761, 1764-1766, 1768, 1769-1771, and 1773-1775).

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William Bull, the fourth resident, was a justice of the peace, member of His Majesty's Council, and elected to the Provincial Congress (1744-1746).

William Stephen Bull, the fifth resident, served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. William Izard Bull represented St. Andrews Parish in the South Carolina House of Representatives (1835-1848); he served as state senator (1848-1865) and as a member of the State Constitutional Convention (1865).

RELIGION: William Bull, the second resident, entertained John Wesley, founder of Methodism, at the plantation in 1737. He also helped to organize Prince William's Parish.

SCIENCE: William Bull, Jr. was one of the first American-born physicians and received his M.D. degree from the University of Leyden (1734).

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