

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only  
received OCT 6 1980  
date entered NOV 25 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Barnwell House, Prospect Hill Plantation

and/or common Prospect Hill Plantation

**2. Location** S of Charleston

Approximately 30 miles south of Charleston, 3.5 miles south of U.S. 17 at Parker's Ferry  
street & number on S-10-38 on the east bank of the South Edisto, commonly not for publication  
called Pon Pon River

city, town Parker's Ferry *Charleston for vicinity*  vicinity of congressional district First

state South Carolina code 045 county Charleston code 019

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Suzanne P. Merck

street & number Prospect Hill Plantation

city, town Yonges Island  vicinity of state South Carolina 29494

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charleston County Courthouse, City Office Building

street & number 2 Courthouse Square

city, town Charleston state South Carolina 29401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of Historic Places  
in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1972 (update)  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Barnwell House, Prospect Hill Plantation, is located on the South Edisto or Pon Pon River, about 30 miles south of Charleston, in that part of Charleston County taken from Colleton County in 1911. The Barnwell House, built in 1878 by Edward Barnwell III, is a vernacular building form with residual influence of the Greek Revival style.

Exterior: The Barnwell house is essentially two houses, the front or main portion dating from 1878, the rear section from perhaps early to mid-nineteenth century.

The main part of the Barnwell house is a rectangular two and one-half story building. The lower story is of brick, three courses thick, faced with stucco scored to resemble stone. The upper story is sheathed with weatherboard atop a plain frame belt course. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with metal, the ridge being parallel to the facade. Two interior chimneys project from the roof's west slope.

The facade (east elevation) is five bays wide, with a one story portico. The bell-cast hip roof of the portico is supported by two solid wood Doric columns with fluted shafts. A balustrade connects the columns to pilasters on either side. (Columns, pilasters, and balustrade have been temporarily removed for portico repair.) The centrally placed doorway has a five-paned transom with side lights. The six over six double-hung windows have louvered shutters, and are surmounted by an architrave on the upper story. A central gable, which may be a later addition, has a tripartite window over which an arched, Victorian style decoration was later applied.

The north elevation has six windows arranged in three bays. The end gable has a pedimented boxed cornice with return which extends around the roof line. The gable features a centrally placed tripartite window. The south elevation is identical to the north elevation, with the exception of a side porch added after 1900.

The west or rear elevation has an attached two story four room section which is stylistically unrelated to the 1878 house. It may represent an earlier detached dependency which survived the 1865 burning of the original house on this site, and was later incorporated into the 1878 house as an economy measure. The walls are of brick, three courses thick, and covered entirely with scored stucco. The stucco shows no joint at the juncture of the two house parts, suggesting that it was applied to both at the same time. The rear building has a floor level about four feet below that of the front section, requiring connecting steps between levels in the interior. The north elevation has three asymmetrical windows. The south elevation has four windows in two bays. The rear (west) elevation has a two story veranda, the upper section apparently more recent than the lower one. A portion of the upper veranda has been enclosed to make a bathroom. The two interior chimneys have arched brick caps, and the roof is flat.

Interior: The interior of the rear section of the house is badly deteriorated and has had extensive replacement of its structural elements. It contains two rooms flanking a central hall both upstairs and down.

The 1878 house has a wide central hall flanked by four rooms. The back rooms are unusually narrow. Fine Federal Revival wainscoting and overdoors, not original to the house, have been applied to the hall walls and interior doorways of the ground level.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
<b>Specific dates</b>	1878	<b>Builder/Architect</b>		

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barnwell House on Prospect Hill Plantation is located on the South Edisto or Pon Pon River about thirty miles south of Charleston, in a part of Charleston County that was taken from Colleton County in 1911. It was built by Edward Barnwell III in 1878. The Barnwell House is architecturally significant as a late nineteenth century house designed to retain the ambiance of antebellum grandeur while conforming to the reality of postwar economic conditions. It is historically notable as the last home of its builder Edward Barnwell, whose combined talents for business and agriculture, along with an enviable resourcefulness, allowed him to achieve fortunes in both worlds which spanned his adult life.

Edward Barnwell was born July 22, 1813 and educated in Beaufort. At age fifteen, he was apprenticed to Birkenwrath and Lowndes of Charleston "to learn business." Apparently an apt pupil, Barnwell soon launched a partnership with Berkeley Wilkins (Wilkins and Barnwell, 14 East Bay Street). Barnwell became highly successful as a factor in both cotton and rice.

In 1835 Edward Barnwell married Margaret Manigault, daughter of Gabriel Henry and Ann Heyward Manigault. Through his marriage he ultimately acquired the ownership of several Colleton County rice plantations, principally Prospect (later called Prospect Hill) where he made his home. By 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Barnwell was operating a successful Charleston firm in partnership with his son Edward (Barnwell and Son, Cotton Factors) while overseeing the cultivation of his Pon Pon rice plantations. His estate was valued at greater than \$300,000.

During this prewar period of Barnwell's life he took an active role in the South Carolina Agriculture Society, a group which promoted enlightened agricultural methods among its membership. He served as that group's treasurer from 1844-1860. Barnwell was a member of St. Peter's (Episcopal) Church, Charleston, serving on its vestry and as its lay delegate to several diocesan conventions. He was also a member of Christ Church, Wiltown, St. Paul's Parish, near his Prospect Hill home. He represented this church at the diocesan conventions of 1859 and 1860, where crucial questions (from the Southern viewpoint) about the dissolubility of ties, both the marital one between slaves and the political one between state and union, were deliberated.

Edward Barnwell, who was forty-eight at the outbreak of the Civil War, took no military role in the war. He devoted his energies to running his business in Charleston and managing his Pon Pon plantations. In February 1865 Federal troops burned his plantation house at Prospect Hill.

By the war's end Barnwell's wealth was effectively gone. Prospect Hill plantation house and land (200 acres) alone had been valued at \$32,900 in 1865. By January 1, 1868, the tax valuation on all Barnwell's Colleton County holdings, some 2,441 acres, was only \$12,205. That portion of his capital wealth represented by slaves, some 246 in 1860, was wiped out; yet Barnwell retained his land. Although he was no longer young, from

Continued

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property approximately 6.6

Quadrangle name Fenwick, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 1 7	5 5 1 5 6 7 1 0	3 1 6 1 1 7 3 1 0 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Barnwell House, Prospect Hill Plantation is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Charleston County, S.C., Tax Map Number 40-0-0" and drawn at a scale of 2000 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rebecca Starr Cultural Resources Technician	David Chamberlain, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
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organization	S.C. Dept. of Archives & History	date	July 25, 1980
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street & number	Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station	telephone	(803) 758-5816
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city or town	Columbia	state	South Carolina 29211
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# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	Charles E. Lee State Historic Preservation Officer
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date 9/25/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>11-25-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date <u>11/25/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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The entrance and matching rear hall doorway have broken pedimented overdoors with a central chimera-like mythological device. Other woodwork and mantels throughout the house are simple and unadorned.

The attic shows much evidence of cannibalized lumber. The rafters have mortise and tenon joints at the apex (no ridge pole), are numbered, and show evidence of previous use. Hand shaped joists are interspersed with circular sawn joists; the hand shaped joists probably predate the 1878 construction. Short wooden extensions have been added to the latter to achieve proper length. The roof sheathing and gable weatherboards are all circular sawn, consistent with the 1878 construction date. Nail holes in the upper surface of the exposed roof rafters behind the front gable suggest that the gable may not be original to the house. Another possibility is that the rafters were re-used.

On the north side of the house stands a square, frame, metal-roofed dependency with four foot high foundations, which may predate the house. Noncontributing outbuildings include a twentieth century aviary, a dogpen, and a garage.

Surroundings: The Barnwell House, Prospect Hill Plantation, is located in an isolated, extremely rural setting surrounded by pinelands. The live oak avenue leading from the public road to the main house dates from the original house and provides a dramatic approach.

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this starting point Barnwell learned to effectively manage emancipated labor to rebuild his rice-planting operation, ultimately realizing larger harvests than in prewar days. In 1878 he rebuilt Prospect Hill plantation house which, tradition has it, cost about \$10,000. By his death at age seventy-two, Barnwell had recouped a good measure of the wealth he had previously enjoyed.

Architecture: Barnwell House at Prospect Hill Plantation is architecturally significant as an attempt to recapture the ambiance of antebellum grandeur while conforming to the realities of postwar construction costs and scarcity of building materials. The Georgian massing was a throw-back to the last century while the stucco on the first floor exterior was an effort to present a more substantial facade. Conservation measures such as extensive re-use of old lumber in the roof construction and incorporating what was probably an existing dependency into the total building allowed for a larger finished project with minimum expenditure.

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Columbia, S.C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. U.S., Bureau of the Census, Eighth Agriculture Census, 1860. Colleton County, South Carolina, p. 545.

Columbia, S.C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. U.S., Bureau of the Census, Tenth Agriculture Census, 1880. Colleton County, South Carolina, p. 12.

Wells, John. Architectural historian. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Columbia, South Carolina. Interview, 27 May 1980.