FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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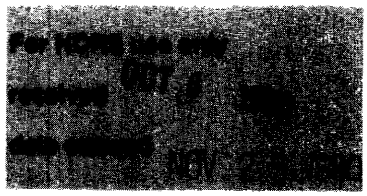

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Wedge

and/or common The Wedge

2. Location

street & number N E of McClellanville ___ not for publication

city, town McClellanville inc. _x_ vicinity of congressional district First

state South Carolina code 045 county Charleston code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_x_ building(s)	_x_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_x_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_x_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Richard B. Dominick

street & number The Wedge

city, town McClellanville _x_ vicinity of state South Carolina 29458

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Mesne Conveyance

street & number 2 Court House 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 elegible? ___ yes _x_ no

date 1980 (update) ___ federal _x_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located six miles east of McClellanville, South Carolina, the Wedge was constructed ca. 1830 by William Lucas. Situated in a rural environment, it is a two and one-half story Federal style house with Neo-Classical details.

The Wedge is rectangular in shape,of frame construction, retaining a gable roof with two ridge straddle chimneys, slate shingles, and three slender dormer windows with six over six sashes. Fenestration of the five-bay facade (south elevation) is nine over nine with fixed upper sashes. Panelled shutters employ strap hinges and shutter stays. On the second story a transom fanlight crowns a French door which leads out onto the balcony decorated with four wooden urns. Individual balusters are unturned, though the main supports are fashioned as small columns. The cornice of the portico projects beyond the unembellished frieze and the dentiled architrave. The entablature is supported by four fluted and necked Doric columns, joined by a simple guardrail. The main entrance is trabeated with a repetition of the transom fanlight. A horseshoe stair of granite steps and iron railing gives access to the porch, while a semicircular arched entrance way leads to the English basement.

The rear of the house (north elevation) has twin dormers and a window situated between the first and second story. Fenestration is six over six for the dormers and nine over nine for the remaining windows. A one story portico with plain entablature and paired columns, flanking pilasters and a sidelighted entrance way capped with an elliptical arch with keystone rests on a high brick foundation with embedded iron railings.

East and west elevations are four bays wide. The gable end has a boxed cornice, a semi-circular louver, and three six over six sash windows. Nine over nine windows are used on the remainder of both east and west elevations. One story polygonal flankers support slender chimneys.

The basement level contains six over six windows with pegged frames, batten shutters with strap hinges, and shutter stays. The brick is set in Flemish bond and laid in lime mortar.

Interior: The Wedge follows a four room central hall plan. The basement area consists of a long hall with an arch positioned at the head of the stairs. Two large, segmental arched hearths with niches are located in left and right front rooms. Two smaller rooms are used as storage (left rear) and wine cellar (right rear) rooms. Doors, with the exception of the main northern and southern exits, are of batten construction. Walls are of plaster and are unembellished with the exception of a plank baseboard. The floor is brick, laid in stretcher bond, and the right front room has a small millstone set in the floor.

The main floor is divided into left and right front parlors bisected by a central hall leading to the rear entrance. An alcove and library are on the right rear portion of the house and a kitchen-laundry is on the left rear section. The parlors have wide entrances, reeded crown mouldings, a plain frieze and picture molding, Federal style mantels, six-panel doors, and niches on the northern wall. Wainscot with cavetto molding lines the rooms and the central hall.

A small alcove is in the rear entrance area adjacent to the panelled library in the right flanker. To the left is the kitchen-laundry area. Immediately south of the rear, sidelighted entrance, is a four-panelled door with a geometric floral design executed in leaded glass.

Continued

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	_X_ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
_X_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1830 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Situated in rural surroundings, the Wedge is located six miles east of McClellanville, South Carolina. Constructed ca. 1830, this two and one-half story Federal style house with Neo-Classical details was built by William Lucas. The house is significant for its architectural merit as a late Federal plantation residence.

The Wedge was built ca. 1830 by William Lucas, a wealthy nineteenth century rice planter. He received the property, so named because of its wedge shaped boundary lines, from his father-in-law John Hume in 1829. Between 1830 and 1866 William Lucas was engaged in rice cultivation along the South Santee River. By 1850 Lucas owned seventy-two slaves. In addition to the Wedge he operated a rice pounding mill on Shem Creek and another on Murphy's Island and had plantations in Christ Church Parish, and near Mt. Pleasant.

Because of his interest in agriculture, Lucas belonged to the Planters Club of St. James, Santee. He was also a member of the more formal State Agricultural Society, an organization devoted to the scientific management of farming, of animal husbandry, and of agricultural invention.

During the Civil War, William Lucas, like other planters in the area, fled the Santee region because of advancing Union troops. He spent the interim in Aiken, South Carolina. Whether or not rice cultivation continued throughout the war is not known; however, by 1866 the aging Lucas transferred the property to his son Alexander Hume Lucas, who owned the property until 1914.

Because of the decline of South Carolina rice culture at the turn of the century, the Wedge was not a working plantation after 1914. Like other plantations in Charleston and Georgetown Counties, it became a resort home. Mr. E. G. Chadwick, in 1929 and Mr. Charles H. Woodward, in 1946, made the Wedge their winter residence. The current owners purchased the plantation in 1966 after which time Mr. Richard B. Dominick established an entomological laboratory on the site, collaborating with scientists from Cornell University and the Smithsonian in the classification of moths.

The Wedge is architecturally significant as a lowcountry example of a Federal style residence. Symmetrical in design, using one story polygonal wings in counterpoint to the basic cube of the main block, the house features Adamesque exterior details, including: the horseshoe stairs; the balustraded balcony with its decorative urns; and the transoms with fanlight motifs on the first and second story doorways of the facade. Inside, the four room, central hall configuration places emphasis on open planning in the east and west parlors. Intelligent and disciplined use of design principles achieve visual unification of the interior. Wall treatments in halls, parlors, and bedrooms use the same reeded crown molding, single panel wainscot, and architraves. Six-panelled doors are used throughout the first through third floors; arches located at the head of stairs is a recurrent theme which adds to the visual integrity between floors. Trapezoidal wainscot, engaged handrails, Vitruvian bridgeboards, panelled spandrel, and block-and-turned newels are used in the stairway.

Although the house has undergone certain alterations, the integrity of the building is not significantly compromised.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.5

Quadrangle name Santee, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	649265	3671228	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of The Wedge nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax map of Charleston County entitled "E 790-0-0" and drawn at a scale of 2000 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the house and its immediate grounds, and does not include the outbuildings, which are deemed non-historic.

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 Charles Lowe
Historical Programs Section

organization S.C. Dept. of Archives & History date August 25, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 11669, Capitol Station telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Charles E. Lee

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

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 11/25/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [signature] date 11/25/80

Chief of Registration

The stairway utilizes unturned balusters, engaged handrails, trapezoidal wainscot panels, and Vitruvian stringers. Paired block-and-turned newels, are used on the second floor landing.

The second story hall employs an arch, and the walls retain the same style wainscot and doors. Main bedrooms replicate the styling of the parlors, yet have had their fireplaces covered. The north (common) partition walls on both second and third stories have been moved to facilitate installation of bathrooms. The top floor differs by its absence of crown molding and wainscot but retains use of the six panel doors.

Alterations: The south portico of the Wedge was originally supported by paired columns. The fluted Doric columns were installed in the late 1920's. The rear portico and the window between the second and third stories were put in at this time. Interior plumbing was also introduced. In the 1960's the current owners added an alcove in the right rear portion of the first floor, panelled the west flanker, and remodeled the east flanker and left rear room into a kitchen-laundry area. The second and third floors had a wall moved to accommodate bathroom facilities.

Charleston City Directory, 1867-68. Charleston, S.C.: Jno. Orrin Lea and Co., 1867, p. 117.

Charleston Evening Post, 23 March 1970.

Charleston, S.C. South Carolina Historical Society. Record Group 34162-2.

Charleston, S.C. South Carolina Historical Society. Records of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, 1825-1860.

Columbia, S.C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston County Deed Books Z9, p. 312; B15, pp. 129, 132; U45, p. 516.

Doar, David. A Sketch of the Agricultural Society of St. James, Santee, South Carolina. n.p., 1907.

Dominick, Mrs. Richard B. The Wedge Plantation, McClellanville, S.C. Interview, 7 August 1980.

Register of Mesne Conveyance, Charleston County Deed Book Z9.

Rogers, George C. The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1970, pp. 400, 403, 487-489, 526.

Simons, Robert Bentham. Thomas Grange Simons III, His Forebears and Relations. Charleston, S.C.: Privately printed, 1954, p. 147.

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. Plantations of the Carolina Low Country. Charleston, S.C.: Carolina Art Association, 1938, p. 81.

"The Wedge on the South Santee." The News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), 20 September 1931.

"The Wedge, Santee River Symbol of Rice Planting." The News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), 9 December 1957, p. 10-A.