

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **SEP 30 1982**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Farmfield Plantation House

and/or common Farmfield Plantation House

2. Location

street & number On Farmfield Road in St. Andrews Parish NA not for publication

city, town Charleston NA vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Charleston code 019

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Louise R. Ravenel

street & number #2 Royalgate Drive

city, town Columbia NA vicinity of state South Carolina 29204

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 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 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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

Farmfield Plantation House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame residence located in St. Andrews Parish in suburban Charleston, South Carolina. It is situated at the end of a live oak avenue, overlooking Wappoo Creek. The house was built ca. 1854 as a rural residence for William Ravenel, a businessman who maintained a principal residence in the city of Charleston. The plantation has been subdivided for later housing developments, and the interior of the house has been modified at various times, but the house and immediate environment retain integrity from the time of William Ravenel.

Additional Information: Farmfield Plantation House is a two-and-one-half-story farmhouse with a heavy timber braced frame, a high brick pier foundation, weatherboard siding, and a gable roof. The house has a longitudinal plan with its primary entrance beneath the gable end, a composition reflective of the Greek Revival temple format. The facade (north elevation) is five bays wide with a one-story Doric portico sheltering the entrance. The windows are six-over-six sash with louvered shutters. The central window on the second story has four-light sidelights. The gable end is pedimented with a single six-over-six window centered in the tympanum.

The east elevation of the house has six regular bays. The first story windows are taller than the second story windows. Three gabled dormers with casement windows and two brick chimneys rise from the east slope of the roof. The west elevation is similar, with the exception of auxiliary entrances in the second and third bays from the north.

The south elevation has a one-story portico and a pedimented gable end similar to the north elevation, but with a projecting gable-roofed, two-story bay in the center, dividing the portico into two parts. The projecting bay has a six-over-six window with four-light sidelights on each story. Single-leaf doors with four-light sidelights open from either side of this projecting bay onto the portico. There are single bays to either side of the projecting bay on the main block of the house. Three six-over-six windows are arranged above the projecting bay on the gable end of the main block.

Interior: Farmfield Plantation House has a central longitudinal hall running from north to south. A stairway with turned newels and balusters rises to the second floor from the west side of this hall. There are three rooms on either side of the hall on the first floor. The first floor rooms have marbelized slate mantels, wide board floors, wooden baseboards and cornices, and plaster walls and ceilings. Some of the rooms have plaster ceiling medallions.

The second floor has a similar plan with the addition of a seventh room at the south end within the projecting bay at the end of the longitudinal hall. The rooms on the second floor have wooden mantels. A wooden stair rises to the third floor, which has six further rooms beneath the gable roof.

The interior of Farmfield has undergone certain modifications to accommodate twentieth century demands. A kitchen has been built into one of the first floor rooms, and several bathrooms have been installed on the second floor. Wooden panelling has been installed in some rooms.

Surroundings: Farmfield Plantation House is located at the edge of a residential subdivision in suburban Charleston. The house overlooks Wappoo Creek and is surrounded by salt marsh and moss-laden trees. Although the original plantation has been reduced and the original outbuildings destroyed, the house retains integrity of setting; no modern houses are visible from the immediate yard.

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
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates ca. 1854 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Farmfield Plantation House, a two-and-one-half-story, frame residence located in St. Andrews Parish, suburban Charleston, South Carolina, was built ca. 1854 for William Ravenel, a prominent Charleston businessman and banker. It is significant as a largely unaltered antebellum plantation house, one of the few in St. Andrew's Parish which survived the Civil War. Farmfield is also locally important for its association with Ravenel, a banker, shipping agent, merchant, and manufacturer.

Additional Information: William Ravenel, son of Daniel Ravenel II of Wantoot, was born 23 October 1806. He married Eliza Butler Pringle, who bore him eleven children. Ravenel entered the business world at the age of sixteen in the shipping company of Ravenel and Stevens; seven years later he became a partner. Ravenel and Company, as it became known, was completely wiped out by the Civil War.¹ Ravenel also served as a director for the Planters's and Mechanics's Bank from around 1830 until 1865, when the bank ceased doing business. In addition, from 1859 to 1865 Ravenel was a director of the Charleston Savings Institution.² In 1863 Ravenel was listed as the president of the Palmetto Exporting and Importing Company, a newly chartered company licensed to carry war goods.³ In 1870, as the city began to recover from the war, the Planters's and Mechanics's Bank resumed business, and Ravenel was again a director until 1878 when it closed.⁴ In 1871 Ravenel was elected president of the recently formed Stono Phosphate Company and served in that position until the company closed in 1888. The company appears to have been quite successful during the years it operated in spite of organizational difficulties.⁵

Although never a planter on a large scale, Ravenel was interested in agriculture before the war. In addition to supervising the Marsh plantation, which belonged to his wife, Ravenel purchased acreage in St. Andrews Parish which he called Farmfield. The family spent several months of the year at the farm, living in a small house already on the property until the present house was finished ca. 1854. Mrs. Ravenel supervised cultivation of the grounds, which were greatly admired. Farmfield was a self-supporting operation, supplying the family's fresh produce needs. While in residence in Charleston, William Ravenel and his wife often visited Farmfield to check on the farming operation. During the last year of the war Ravenel and his family spent most of their time at Farmfield to escape the constant shelling. In that year at least one battle took place in close proximity to Farmfield, and not long after, the family fled to the safety of Society Hill in the Upcountry. Northern troops visited Farmfield early in 1865 but miraculously did not damage the house itself. After Ravenel's death in 1888, Farmfield remained in the family, and Ravenel's surviving children still visited the farm for several months each year.⁶ In the 1920s there was a commercial dairy at Farmfield run by Arthur and Harold Ravenel, probably grandsons or great-nephews of William.⁷ Today Farmfield Plantation House is still owned by the Ravenels and is used for residential rental space.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.25

Quadrangle name Charleston, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	5	9	4	2	7	5	3	6	2	6	5	9	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Farmfield Plantation House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Charleston County tax map #349-11-0, which is drawn 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the house and its immediate setting.

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

state	NA	code	county	NA	code
state	NA	code	county	NA	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Suzanne Pickens Wylie	W. David Chamberlain
	John E. Wells	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester
organization	South Carolina Department of Archives and History	Council of Governments
		date July 29, 1982
street & number	1430 Senate Street	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 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee *Charles E. Lee*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/7/82

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 10/29/82

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet 1

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Architecture: Farmfield Plantation House is an example of a vernacular plantation house adapted to a Greek Revival format. The longitudinal-hall plan with the main entrance beneath the gable end is characteristic of the Greek Revival temple composition and is distinct from the ubiquitous transverse-hall plan of South Carolina farmhouses. The elaboration of the gable ends as pediments and the Doric porticos on the north and south elevations are also indicative of the conscious adaptation of Greek Revival stylistic elements to the house. Farmfield is also noteworthy as one of very few antebellum houses to have survived in this part of Charleston County.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Charleston, S.C. Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance. Deed Book Y-11.

Charleston, S.C. South Carolina Historical Society. Ravenel Family Papers.

Clark, W. A. The History of the Banking Institutions Organized in South Carolina
Prior to 1860. Columbia, S.C.: The State Co., 1922.

Ravenel, Rose Pringle. Piazza Tales: A Charleston Memory. Edited by Anthony
Harrigan. Charleston, S.C.: The Shaftsbury Press, 1952.

Farmfield Plantation House Nomination
Footnotes

¹Rose Pringle Ravenel, Piazza Tales: A Charleston Memory, ed. by Anthony Harrigan (Charleston, S.C.: The Shaftsbury Press, 1952), pp. 3, 76.

²W. A. Clark, The History of the Banking Institutions Organized in South Carolina Prior to 1860 (Columbia, S.C.: The State Co., 1922), pp. 74, 168, 183, 195, 257.

³Ravenel Family Papers, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, S.C.

⁴Clark, p. 257.

⁵Ravenel Family Papers.

⁶Deed Book Y-11, pp. 1-2, Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Charleston, S.C.; Rose Pringle Ravenel, pp. 13, 14, 34, 35, 40, 41, 43, 44, 12.

⁷Ravenel Family Papers.