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(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Edisto Island Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Sunnyside

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: Approximately 3/4 mile off north side of Peter's Point Road, on a tiny island in the marsh of Store Creek.

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Gale J. Belser
Sunnyside
Edisto Island, S. C. 29438

DESCRIPTION

Sunnyside is a one-and-one-half story, weatherboard-clad, rectangular plan, mansard-roofed (with wooden shingles sheathing the lower slope and metal panels on the upper slope) residence surmounted by a glassed cupola with flared eaves. A seven-bay, one-story, hipped-roof porch extends fully across the facade and wraps both side elevations. The roof is supported by chamfered posts and has a slat balustrade. A boxed cornice with paired brackets comprises the eaves at both the porch and main roof. At the facade elevation the porch is seven bays; each side elevation was originally of four bays but the last bay of the west elevation has been enclosed as part of the kitchen. The entire porch is now screened. The facade fenestration is symmetrical with AABAA (A = a single two-over-two, double-hung-sash window with louvered shutters; B = a single-leaf door with five-light sidelights over panels and a five-light transom) on the first floor. The second level has five evenly spaced two-over-two, double-hung-sash dormer windows with pedimented gables and louvered shutters. The principal mass of the house contains two interior brick chimneys with two bands of necking, corbelling, and twin hoods which pierce the lower roof slope of the rear elevation. There is a one-and-one-half story, centrally located, projecting, rear ell which has a matching chimney. The house is built on a raised, brick-pier foundation, which has some lattice infill. The interior features decorative mantels with colonettes below console brackets and inlayed parquetry flooring in the entranceway and hall; a beaded-board ceiling in a design of opposing

triangles highlighted by half-round molding is in the southeast corner, first-floor room.

There are several outlying buildings and the tabby foundation of a cotton gin adjacent to the house. Directly behind the house are two small, rectangular, one-story, gable-roof, weatherboard clad out-buildings that were probably the quarters of house servants. There is also a long, rectangular, weatherboard-clad, one-and-one-half story barn. It is possible that some or all of these buildings predate the construction of the house. The tabby foundation of the gin is a short distance away from the southeast side of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: __L__ (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sunnyside, constructed between 1870 and 1880 by Townsend Mikell, son of Isaac Jenkins Mikell of Peter's Point Plantation, is significant as one of the few remaining, relatively intact, immediate post-Civil War sea island cotton plantations on Edisto. Mikell adorned his house with a cupola, reminiscent of Edisto's Bleak Hall, his birthplace and ancestral home of the Townsends.(1)

Though a student at the University of Virginia at the time of South Carolina's secession from the Union, Townsend Mikell returned to Edisto to offer his services in the war.(2)

Located on a tiny island within the marsh of Store Creek, Sunnyside was established only after Mikell returned to Edisto Island after the war. Having served as a scout on the island under the command of Major John Jenkins of the Rebel Troop, until 8 April 1863, when he and several others were captured, he spent the remainder of the war on Hilton Head Island.(3)

His family's property restored in 1866, Mikell began the production of sea island cotton and constructed a gin (only tabby foundation remains) on the small island, adjacent to his home.

The gin was in operation by 1882 and possibly earlier.(4) Mikell resumed the old pre-war method of fertilizing his crop with the rich marsh mud that could be had for the taking. He continued this practice at least until 1886.(5) As early as 1870, he was producing some 15,750 pounds (35 bales) of cotton on about 200 acres of land.(6)

A small cannon, possibly a pirate gun pre-dating the Revolutionary War, has sat for many years in front of this house. It was reputedly found nearby by Mr. Mikell's servants as they were digging for gravel

for the making of tabby, possibly to be used in the foundations of either the gin or barn.(7)

Sunnyside was for many years the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Belser of Columbia, Mrs. Belser was a daughter of Mikell. Today the property belongs to their son and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Ritchie Belser, thus remaining in one family throughout its history.

ACREAGE: Approximately 3.0 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #71-0-0, a portion of Parcel 41, with an approximate scale of 1 inch equalling 400 feet. It includes the historic buildings and structures (house, outbuildings, gin house foundation, and the remainder of a small island within the marsh of Store Creek containing the house.

QUAD NAME: Edisto Island, S. C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/565960/3603180

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

(1)Nell S. Graydon, Tales of Edisto (Columbia, S. C.: The R. L. Bryan Comp., 1955), pp. 68-69.

(2)Ibid., p. 42.

(3)Ibid.

(4)The South Carolina Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1883 (Charleston, S. C.: Lucas and Richardson, Book and Job Printers, 1883), p. 331.

(5)Graydon, p. 44.

(6)United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880 (Columbia, S. C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1971), 1870, Charleston County.

(7)Ibid., pp. 68-69; Interview with Dr. and Mrs. Ritchie H. Belser, Sunnyside, Edisto Island, S. C.