United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

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

1. Name  

historic  Laurel Hill  

and/or common  

2. Location  

Approx. 5 miles west of McClellanville, about one-half mile south of U.S. Hwy. 17, at end of private drive.  

NA not for publication  

street & number  

city, town  McClellanville  

state  South Carolina  

code 045  

county Charleston  

code 019  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>X private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property  

name  Dr. Richard L. Morrison  

street & number  203 Bolick Street  

city, town  Georgetown  

state  South Carolina  

code 29440  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  

Register of Mesne Conveyance  

street & number  2 Courthouse Square  

city, town  Charleston  

state  South Carolina  

code 29401  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title  South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places  

has this property been determined eligible?  

- yes  X  no  

date  1973  

federal  

state  

county  

local  

depository for survey records  South Carolina Department of Archives and History  

city, town  Columbia  

state  South Carolina  

code 29211
7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Laurel Hill is a one-and-one-half story, braced-frame residence located near Doe Hall Creek in rural Charleston County. The building is believed to have been constructed ca. 1853 for Richard T. Morrison II. In December 1983 the house was moved to its present location approximately one-half mile away from the original site. In spite of the relocation, Laurel Hill retains its integrity as an antebellum vernacular farmhouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Laurel Hill is representative of the basic tenets of vernacular frame construction and residential design popular in South Carolina in the early and middle nineteenth century. The building has a tall open pier foundation, built of cinder block with a veneer of old brick. The structural framework is hewn timber with mortise-and-tenon joints secured with trunnels. Exterior sheathing is weatherboard. Roofing is standing-seam metal. The facade (east elevation) is five bays wide. The original porch, whose configuration is not known, was replaced during the early twentieth century with a new porch, which was retained in the relocation. This porch has turned posts, simple pickets, and a hipped roof with exposed rafter tails; it spans the breadth of the facade. A new stair provides access to the porch. The facade has a central doorway with a single-leaf door and a transom. The windows are nine-over-nine, double-hung sash. Three gabled dormers with six-over-six sash pierce the forward slope of the gabled roof.

The side elevations have four bays each, with sash matching that of the facade, and two small windows in each gable end. The rear (west elevation) is five bays. Its original porch was replaced, also during the early twentieth century, with a small hip-roofed porch. This porch was removed in the 1983 relocation, and rebuilt in a shed-roofed configuration, spanning approximately two-thirds of the rear elevation. A small shed-roofed room on the north end of the porch contains bathrooms. Three dormers pierce the rear slope of the roof.

Interior

Laurel Hill has a central-hall, double-pile plan, a configuration common in the South Carolina vernacular houses of the period. The broad central hall has wide pine flooring, simple baseboards, and sheetrock replacing the original plaster. An open-stringer stair with a simple balustrade rises from the hall to the attic. The main reception rooms have intact mantels, baseboards, and door and window casings. Most of the original doors, with their self-closing hinges, are intact. One room, now used as the kitchen, was renovated in 1983 with the structural frame exposed in walls and ceilings. The attic space has bedrooms and baths.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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<td>1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
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</table>

Specific dates: ca. 1853  Builder/Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Laurel Hill is a one-and-one-half story, weatherboarded frame residence set on brick piers. Reportedly constructed ca. 1853 by Richard T. Morrison II, Laurel Hill was moved a short distance to its present rural location in Charleston County in 1983. Laurel Hill is architecturally significant as a very intact example of a mid-nineteenth-century lowcountry vernacular farmhouse. Laurel Hill was the home of prominent planter, Richard T. Morrison II, who was involved in the development of McClellanville and in the political and community affairs of St. James Santee Parish in the nineteenth century. In spite of its relocation, Laurel Hill retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; it conveys architectural significance through its intact historical features.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Laurel Hill Plantation was purchased in a 688-acre tract by Richard T. Morrison II (1815-1910) in 1853.\(^1\) Morrison reportedly built the present house in the same year, and by 1860 had become one of the wealthiest planters of St. James Santee Parish with land worth approximately $9,000 and a personal estate valued at more than $54,000.\(^2\) Morrison played an important role in the development of McClellanville in the mid-1850s; in 1859 he donated land for a new schoolhouse in the town.\(^3\) Morrison served as an officer of the congregation of the Wappetaw Congregational Church, as magistrate in St. James Parish in 1855, and was elected to the Forty-fourth General Assembly from St. James Santee Parish.\(^4\) Morrison also practiced agricultural innovations on his plantation such as the drainage of swamp and lowlands.\(^5\)

Laurel Hill Plantation was divided by Richard T. Morrison II into equal parts and given to the nine children of his first wife, probably sometime in the 1870s.\(^6\) The house was later bought by Morrison's grandson, Richard T. Morrison IV, who continued to farm the plantation. The present site of the house is said to have once belonged to Richard T. Morrison II as part of an 1851 state grant.\(^7\)

Architecture

The house from Laurel Hill Plantation is a relatively intact example of the antebellum braced-frame vernacular farmhouses that typified rural South Carolina in the early and middle nineteenth century. The plan, composition, construction technology, and detailing of the house offer solid artifactual evidence which is intact and valid despite the relocation of the house, the reconstruction of the foundation, and the new porches. The building relates the basic conception of house-form in the area and time; the means by which this conception would be translated by the native builders into a solid building; and the available construction tools and technology.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property: 1 acre
Quadrangle name: Awendaw
Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification
The boundary of the Laurel Hill nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #731-0-0, drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The nominated boundary includes only the historic house and its immediate setting.

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: Debra J. Allen, National Register Assistant
organization: South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History
state: December 1984
street & number: P.O. Box 11, 669 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: Charles E. Lee
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 7/16/85

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
FOOTNOTES


6 Baldwin, page following page 90 of the text; Book B, p. 71, Charleston County Plats, South Carolina Departments of Archives and History.

7 Vol. P, No. 6, p. 626, South Carolina State Grants, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


