

Theme 3. Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Dorchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
716545.0041	5/6/71



1. NAME

COMMON: Middleton Place

AND/OR HISTORIC: Middleton Place

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 14 miles NW of Charleston; 10 miles SE of Summerville on S.B. Hwy. 61

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39 COUNTY: Dorchester CODE: 035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Charles H.P. Duell

STREET AND NUMBER: Middleton Place, Route 4,

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Records Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. George and Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, Box 11, 188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)							
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		
	(Check One)				(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a bluff above the Ashley River Henry Middleton constructed his house and developed its spacious gardens.

Original house description - three stories with attic and basement, two story flankers added 1755.

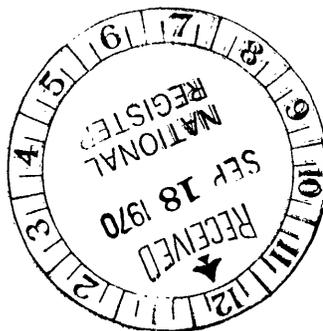
Duke de la Rochefoucault-Liancourt's description from his 1798 visit - "...esteemed the most beautiful house in this part of the country. The out-buildings, such as kitchen, wash-house, and offices, are very capacious. The ensemble of the buildings calls to recollection the ancient English country-seats." 1

Description of present house (south flanker) - Adapted English country Tudor style with strong Dutch influence. House is of brick with a central pavilion three bays wide. The end walls and pavilion possess a handsome Jacobean gable. Central door with crowning fanlight is covered by a hood supported by consoles. Hood and gable details are the same. Sash windows with architrave and paneled shutters are surmounted by cambered brick arches. Clustered inside chimneys with A-shaped covering, louvered recessment in gable pavilion.

Present environment - House faces moulded terraces descending to two butterfly lakes and is surrounded by several other lakes, the Middleton tomb, marble statuary imported from Europe, old rice mill, many native and imported trees, shrubs, flowers and evergreens, ancient moss-bearded live oaks, and walks.

In 1970 the reconstructed plantation stableyards complete with a large horse barn, blacksmith shop, implement sheds, garage, and servant's quarters were opened to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



1. "Middleton Place", South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 20 (1919), 115-122.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>horticulture</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1st landscaped gardens in America

Gardens are the nation's oldest extant landscaped gardens and rank among the largest and most important in the world. They contain America's oldest and largest camellias, planted about 1785 by French botanist Andre Michaux. They were the first camellias brought to the United States.

Henry Middleton built his main house ca. 1741, north and south flankers constructed 1755 from brick made on plantation. Estate passed on to his son Arthur, to his son Henry, to his son William and to his daughter Elizabeth. By her will the plantation in twentieth century passed to J.J. Pringle Smith, a direct descendant of the first Henry Middleton.

The gardens and buildings were pillaged during the revolution. In 1865 Union forces burned the house, destroyed the garden statuary and looted the family tomb. During the following fifty years everything suffered from neglect and overgrowth. The remaining gutted walls of main house and north wing were felled by the 1886 earthquake. The south wing had been roofed over and survived.

In 1916 Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Pringle Smith undertook what was to become several decades of gradual restoration and further development of the gardens.

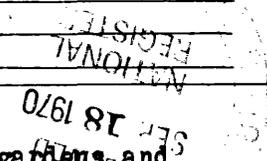
The significance of Middleton Place is farther enhanced through its historic owners. The first Henry Middleton, President of the First Continental Congress and responsible for original concept of gardens, resigned membership on His Majesty's Council to head the opposition to British policy. Thus his plantation was used as a meeting place for freedom seeking Southern leaders. Arthur Middleton signed the Declaration of Independence. William Middleton, signer of the Ordinance of Secession, used house for a political and military center during Civil War.

Terms of British surrender and withdrawal were accepted at Middleton Place in 1781.

Agriculture and Commerce: Important as a headquarters for a network of family plantations producing rice, indigo, cotton and timber. Nineteenth century saw extensive phosphate mining. Timber is chief agricultural crop for the 20th century.

Art and Architecture: Remaining south wing (1755) is fine example of adapted English country Tudor with strong Dutch influence. Houses extensive library, collections of paintings (some by Gerard, Corot, John Izzard Middleton, Alice R. Huger Smith), rare silver, china, and furniture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"America's Gardens", Better Homes and Gardens, Meredith Press, Des Moines, New York, 1964.

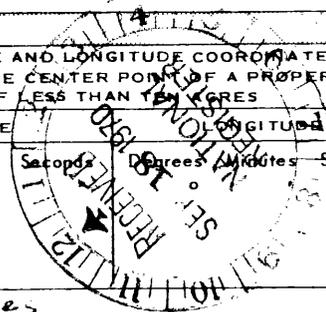
Briggs, Loutrel W., Charleston Gardens, The University of South Carolina Press, 1951.

Calkins, Carroll C., Great Gardens of America, Coward-McCann-Country Beautiful, 1909.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	32 54 46	80 08 59			
NE	32 54 46	80 07 23			
SE	32 53 23	80 07 23			
SW	32 53 23	80 08 59			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 725 acres



LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina	39	Dorchester	035
South Carolina	39	Charleston	019
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Norman McCorkle, Historic Resources Assistant**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **August 28, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street, Box 11,188 Capitol Station**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **35**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robt E. Lep*

Title: Director, South Carolina Department Archives and History

Date: August 29, 1970

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 6 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST: *William H. Stapp*
Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 19 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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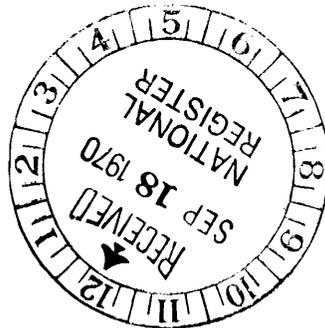
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MIDDLETON PLACE

8. Significance (Continued)

Education: Spring House used in 18th century as Sunday School for slaves. Today Middleton Place used by students of landscape architecture as well as by students of 18th and 19th century plantation life.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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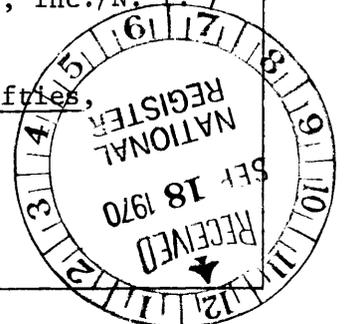
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STATE South Carolina	
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9. Bibliographical

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- Lincoln, F. S., Charleston - Photographic Studies, Corinthian Publications, Inc./1946.
- Lockwood, Alice B., Gardens of Colony and State, Charles Schribner's Sons/1934.
- Middleton, Alicia Hopton, Life in Carolina and New England During the 19th Century, Privately Printed/1929.
- Nafe, Paul O., Middleton Place Where History was Made and Beauty Endured, Teknitone Publications, Cambridge, Mass./1952.
- Prime, Alfred Coxe, The Arts and Crafts in Philadelphia, Maryland and South Carolina, The Walpole Society/1929.
- Ramsay, David, M. D., History of South Carolina, W. J. Duffie Company, Newberry, South Carolina.
- Rhett, Robert Goodwyn, Charleston - An Epic of Carolina, Garrett and Massie, Inc./1940.
- Shaffer, E.T.H., Carolina Gardens, The University of North Carolina Press/1939.
- Slosson, Elvenia, Pioneer American Gardening, Coward-McCann, Inc./N. Y. /1951.
- Smith, Alice R. Huger, A Carolina Rice Plantation of the Fifties, William Morrow and Company, New York/1936.



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STATE South Carolina	
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9. Bibliographical

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Waln, Robert Jr., Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Vol. VI, R. W. Poneroy, Philadelphia/1824.

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The American Magazine, March, 1938

The Autograph Collectors Journal, Vol. IV for II Winter/1952

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Glamour, January, 1948.

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9. Bibliographical

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March, 1951; March, 1957

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