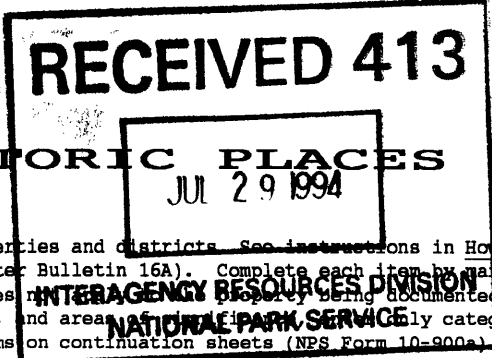


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ashley River Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number N & W of Charleston between the Ashley River Road not for publication  
city or town and the N bank of the Ashley River vicinity X  
state South Carolina code SC county Charleston/Dorchester code 019/035  
zip code 29414

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination        request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally        statewide        locally.  
(       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 7/26/94  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, South Carolina Dept of Archives & History, Columbia, SC  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register        See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register        See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

M. J. M. [Signature] 9/12/94  
for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	36	buildings
12	—	sites
2	—	structures
—	—	objects
18	36	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
 Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 35

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
LANDSCAPE  
DEFENSE  
TRANSPORTATION  
TRANSPORTATION

Sub: Natural feature  
Single dwelling  
Single dwelling  
Village site  
Garden  
Fortification  
Road-related  
Rail-related

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE  
RECREATION & CULTURE  
DOMESTIC  
RECREATION & CULTURE  
LANDSCAPE  
VACANT  
TRANSPORTATION  
TRANSPORTATION

Sub: Natural feature  
Museum  
Single dwelling  
Outdoor recreation  
Garden  
Not in use  
Road-related  
Rail-related

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian  
COLONIAL/Postmedieval English  
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
 roof Metal  
 walls Brick  
Stucco  
 other Wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  
 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  
 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.  
 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic-Non Aboriginal  
TRANSPORTATION

**Significant Dates**

1670  
1865

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

American

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1670-ca. 1940

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # SC-185, 189, 218, 377, 377-A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 7,000 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	17	577440	3646760	3	17	589960	3635220
2	17	586000	3640680	4	17	588260	3633260
5	17	575540	3644280				

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title J. Tracy Power, Ian D. Hill, and J. Lee Tippett, South Carolina SHPO  
organization South Carolina Dept of Archives & History date 26 July 1994  
street & number P.O. Box 11,669, 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 734-8610  
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**RECEIVED 413**

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Ashley River Historic District  
name of property  
Charleston/Dorchester Cos., SC  
County and State

**INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

The Ashley River Historic District is a diverse collection of fifty-one historic, archaeological, and cultural properties including and associated with an approximately thirteen-mile section of the Ashley River in Charleston and Dorchester Counties, running generally northwest from the CSX (formerly the Atlantic Coast Line) Railroad Trestle to a point just southwest of Old Dorchester State Park. The district includes houses, slave cabins, and other associated outbuildings, several of them preserved and open to the public; agricultural properties such as ricefields and a rice mill; landscape features such as gardens and a nursery; a collection of archaeological sites spanning the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries; transportation-related properties such as a road and a railroad trestle; and military properties such as fortifications.

Properties contributing to the district, traveling in a generally northwest direction along the Ashley River, include:

- 1) **Ashley River:** The Ashley River Historic District contains an approximately thirteen-mile section of the river described as "characterized by a series of meanderings and a gradual progression from a salt water to a predominately freshwater environment." Its inclusion as a contributing property in the district recognizes the river's historic and cultural significance as a focal point for early settlement, as a transportation route, and for its influence on life in South Carolina since 1670.(1)
- 2) **Ashley River Road (ca. 1771):** This approximately eleven-and-one-half-mile section of South Carolina Highway 61 (commonly known as Ashley River Road) was individually listed in the National Register in 1983. A road on the south side of the river was authorized by the Lords Proprietors of the colony in 1690-91, and was in its present location by 1771.
- 3) **Fort Bull (1863):** Fort Bull was a large Civil War earthwork, built in 1863 as part of the Confederate defenses of the city of Charleston and designed to defend both the Ashley River and the Charleston & Savannah Railroad. It was in the Sub-District of James Island and St. Andrew's Parish, included a magazine and a bomb-proof, was designed for sixteen guns, and was manned by various Confederate artillery batteries. Though most of the earthwork has been destroyed by the twentieth-century tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and by residential development, a significant portion of one corner, or bastion, of the fort--a open-ended, diamond-shaped polygon measuring approximately one hundred eighty-five feet from end to end, approximately sixty feet in diameter, and approximately ten feet across the parapet--is extant.(2)
- 4) **Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Trestle (ca. 1930):** This double-tracked railroad trestle, built for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad between 1922 and 1935, is a single-leaf bascule-type bridge, powered by a gasoline engine which operates a two-ton concrete counterweight to lift the draw span. The trestle, now maintained and operated by CSX Transportation, is

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commonly known as the "Drayton Hall Trestle" due to its proximity to Drayton Hall, just up the river.(3)

- 5) **Thomas Smith Archaeological Site (38CH691):** A late-seventeenth/early-eighteenth century domestic site named for Thomas Smith, whose house appears on a 1695 map of the Ashley River, characterized by late-seventeenth/early-eighteenth century English ceramics and by surface and subsurface architectural remains.
- 6) **Malcolm Boat Archaeological Site (38CH803):** The remains of a late-eighteenth/early-nineteenth century small wooden vessel with potential to yield information about the types of boats used in trade along the river.
- 7) **Drayton Hall (1738-42):** This plantation house and its grounds were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960. Drayton Hall, built 1738-42 for John Drayton, is one of the finest surviving examples of Georgian architecture in America and is an architectural museum owned and maintained by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Drayton Hall property also includes a brick privy and an historic designed landscape contributing to the character of the district, as well as archaeological site 38CH255, listed separately in the inventory below.
- 8) **Drayton Hall Archaeological Site (38CH255):** An eighteenth- to twentieth-century site including the site of the north and south flankers to the main house; the remains of an eighteenth-century orangery; of an nineteenth-century wharf; and of a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century phosphate mining operation; the domestic site associated with Drayton Hall itself is characterized by mid-eighteenth- to mid-nineteenth century ceramics, glass, and nails.
- 9) **Magnolia Gardens (ca. 1855, 1873):** This plantation house and its gardens were individually listed in the National Register in 1972. Reverend John Grimke Drayton began designing the gardens here in the 1850s and opened Magnolia Gardens to the public in 1870. The house, built in 1873, was designed as an adaptation of the Italianate style. The Magnolia Gardens property, which is maintained as a museum and historic landscaped garden, also includes seven slave cabins, a nursery, the Drayton family vault, and historic ricefields, all contributing to the character of the district.
- 10) **Ashley T-4 Wreck Archaeological Site (38CH437):** The wreck of a nineteenth- to twentieth century wooden vessel, possibly a barge, with potential to yield information about the types of boats used in trade along the river.
- 11) **Runnymede (ca. 1880):** Two-and-one-half story frame residence with Late Victorian eclectic influences; truncated slate hipped roof and a full wraparound porch with a hipped roof; hipped roof ell with a large, hooded

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projecting gable at the left rear; features include attic dormers with round single-light windows; a sawn porch balustrade, paired windows, and stick-style detailing on the second floor; cut scrollwork and brackets; and three interior chimneys with pilastered corners and circle motifs. This house, built ca. 1880 for the Pinckney family, was the third house built at Runnymede Plantation, replacing two earlier houses that burned. It reflects the family's adaptation to circumstances after the Civil War, when they were leaders in the local phosphate industry, and also illustrates the evolution of the area economy from one based primarily on plantations to one which included industrial operations.

- 12) **Runnymede Schoolhouse (ca. 1880):** Two-and-one-half story frame building with Late Victorian eclectic influences; hipped roof; projecting bay to the right of the facade; right elevation door with shed-roofed hood; features include cut scrollwork and brackets and an interior corbeled chimney. This building, built at the same time as the main house at Runnymede, was used as a school for the Pinckney children.
- 13) **Mr. Ladson Archaeological Site (38CH696):** A late-seventeenth/early-eighteenth century domestic site named for "Mr. Ladson," whose house appears on a 1695 map of the Ashley River.
- 14) **Archdale # 1 Archaeological Site (38DR153):** A nineteenth century domestic site associated with Archdale Plantation, characterized by nineteenth century ceramics, glass, and nails.
- 15) **Izard Plantation Archaeological Site (38DR60):** An eighteenth- to twentieth century site including an eighteenth/nineteenth century rice plantation owned by the Izard family and a nineteenth/twentieth century phosphate mining operation, characterized by surface and subsurface architectural remains.
- 16) **Ashley River Phosphate Mine Archaeological Site (38DR81):** A nineteenth century industrial site including the remains of a phosphate mining operation, characterized by surface and subsurface architectural remains.
- 17) **Spring Farm Archaeological Site (38DR161):** An eighteenth century domestic site associated with Walter Izard, including a rice plantation; characterized by eighteenth/nineteenth century ceramics, by landscape features, and by surface and subsurface architectural remains.
- 18) **Middleton Place (ca. 1738, ca. 1755):** The ruins of this plantation house and its grounds were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971. The house, designed in the Jacobean style, was built ca. 1738 for Henry Middleton, with north and south wings added ca. 1755; though Federal troops burned the main house and north wing in 1865 the south wing is extant. The gardens are perhaps the oldest landscaped gardens in the United States, and the property is maintained as a museum and historic landscaped gardens.

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The Middleton Place property also includes a rice mill, historic ricefields, the Middleton family tomb, and seven outbuildings reconstructed ca. 1940, all contributing to the character of the historic district, as well as archaeological site 38DR16, listed separately in the inventory below.

- 19) Middleton Place Archaeological Site (38DR16): An eighteenth/nineteenth century domestic site including a rice plantation; characterized by eighteenth/nineteenth century ceramics, glass, and nails, and by surface and subsurface architectural remains.
- 20) Cedar Grove Plantation Site (38DR158): An eighteenth century domestic site, including a rice plantation; characterized by eighteenth/nineteenth century ceramics and glass, by landscape features, and by surface and subsurface remains.
- 21) Cedar Grove Causeway Archaeological Site (38DR155): An eighteenth/nineteenth century causeway and plantation landing associated with Cedar Grove Plantation.
- 22) The Laurels (ca. 1937): A two-story, L-shaped brick Colonial Revival residence; lateral parapet-gabled roof; five bays wide with central entrances on first and second floors. All windows feature flat jack arches and double hung sash, with those on first floor having nine-over-twelve lights and those on the second floor having six-over-six lights. A one-story porch at grade, supported by four square brick pillars and featuring a flat roof and wooden criss-cross slat balustrade, runs the full length of the facade; three exterior end chimneys. The Laurels was built ca. 1937 as a seasonal residence, in a conscious attempt to duplicate the feeling of a colonial or antebellum plantation house on the banks of the Ashley River. The property at the Laurels includes a laurel allee measuring three quarters of a mile from the caretaker's house to the main house, which also contributes to the character of the district.
- 23) The Laurels Caretaker's House (ca. 1937): A one-story frame Bungalow/Craftsman residence; lateral-gabled roof; full front porch with shed roof; single windows and doors; one interior and one exterior chimney. This house was built at the same time as The Laurels as a year-round residence for the caretaker of the property.
- 24) Old Dorchester State Park (ca. 1695, ca. 1750, ca. 1757): This state park, including the site of the town of Dorchester; a colonial fort; and the ruins of the parish church, was individually listed in the National Register in 1969. Dorchester, established ca. 1695, was a major trading center on the upper Ashley River but declined after the American Revolution. Fort Dorchester, built ca. 1757, was occupied at various times by both American and British troops during the Revolution. The Parish Church of St. George, built ca. 1750, was burned during the Revolution by



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British troops; the ruins of its tower survive. The property at Old Dorchester State Park also includes two archaeological sites, 38DR3 and 38DR4, listed separately in the inventory below.

- 25) Old Dorchester Underwater Site (38DR3): An eighteenth century underwater site associated with the colonial town of Dorchester, characterized by the presence of eighteenth-century English ceramics.
- 26) Old Dorchester Archaeological Site (38DR4): The late seventeenth/early eighteenth century site of the town of Dorchester, characterized by surface and subsurface architectural remains.

Noncontributing properties in the district, travelling in a generally northwest direction along the Ashley River, include:

- 1) Drayton Hall: Four modern outbuildings
- 2) 3464 Ashley River Road: ca. 1950 residence
- 3) Ravenswood: ca. 1940 residence with extensive later alterations
- 4) Magnolia Gardens: Four modern outbuildings
- 5) Runnymede: ca. 1960 residence
- 6) 4110 Ashley River Road: ca. 1984 residence and barn
- 7) 4136 Ashley River Road: ca. 1930 residence with extensive ca. 1950 alterations; three ca. 1950 outbuildings
- 8) 4206 Ashley River Road: ca. 1940 residence
- 9) Middleton Place: ca. 1950 office; ca. 1940 restaurant; three ca. 1950 stables; four ca. 1990 residences; four ca. 1990 hotel buildings at Middleton Inn
- 10) Ashley River Road: ca. 1993 residence
- 11) Ashley River Road: ca. 1993 residence
- 12) Ashley Baptist Church: ca. 1891 church, rebuilt ca. 1961
- 13) Old Dorchester State Park: ca. 1970 residence and outbuilding

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The Ashley River Historic District is an intact collection of buildings, structures, landscape features, and sites associated with--and including--an approximately thirteen-mile section of the Ashley River, in Charleston and Dorchester Counties. The district, illustrating the continuing use of the Ashley River from the first English settlement in South Carolina in ca. 1670 to ca. 1940, is significant as both a natural and a cultural resource and retains its particular integrity of setting.

The relative length of the Ashley River, particularly in comparison to the state's three major river systems--the Santee, Pee Dee, and Savannah--is in inverse proportion to its relative significance in South Carolina's natural, historical, and cultural landscape. Though only about thirty miles long from its headwaters in Dorchester County to its mouth at Charleston Harbor, the river has had a dramatic influence on the state for well over three hundred years.(4)

The Ashley River, known to the Indians as the Kiawah River, takes its name from Anthony Ashley Cooper, Lord Ashley, one of the eight Lord's Proprietors originally granted a charter to the Carolina colony.(5) Among the earliest recorded inhabitants of the area were nineteen small tribes of Indians, most notably the Kiawahs, Kussoes, Westoes, and Sewees, which populated the lower coast from 1550 into the period of European contact.(6)

The first permanent European settlement in what is now South Carolina was established at Albemarle Point, just north of present-day Charleston, in 1670. By 1680 the settlement was moved to Oyster Point, between the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, and named Charles Town. In the first decade of English settlement, survival was a higher priority than making a profit for the proprietors, and the first agricultural efforts were modest.(7)

The introduction of rice in the 1680s became perhaps the most significant development in South Carolina history, and its cultivation along the Ashley River was initially successful. An early profitable method of rice cultivation was to plant in inland swamps fed by freshwater streams, such as those between the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, or between the Ashley and Edisto Rivers.(8)

Other settlements were established along the Ashley. One of the most notable was Dorchester, some fifteen miles north of Charleston, which was founded by a group of Congregationalists from Massachusetts in 1695 and flourished until the 1750s. It was largely deserted after the American Revolution, and a portion of the town site, including Fort Dorchester and the ruins of St. George's Parish Church, is preserved as Old Dorchester State Park. This complex of important sites, each of which is significant individually, also includes the site of an early shipyard on Dorchester Creek.(9)

After 1700 rice became a major money crop in the colony, with dramatic increases in the economy, in land grants, and in the slave population, and its influence increased from the 1720s onward. Another early crop with an impact on the South Carolina economy was indigo, which prospered by the 1750s and thrived

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until after the American Revolution, when the loss of the British bounty doomed it as a staple crop. Other significant products included naval stores and lumber, which were produced along the upper Ashley.(10)

By 1770 a new method of rice cultivation, in river swamps fed and controlled by tides, was introduced. With the shift to tidal swamps from inland swamps both the production and quality of South Carolina rice increased dramatically. This development, however, made the inland swamp rice fields along the Ashley less efficient and less profitable. Property along the river immediately north of Charleston was unsuitable for rice production due to the high salinity of the water and the high marl content of the riverbanks. Property further north was unsuitable due to poor drainage and the river's inability to irrigate the ricefields. Though some rice continued to be cultivated in the cypress swamp region of the upper Ashley, it was not of the best quality and was not produced in large quantities.(11)

Large plantation houses on the banks of the river were the most spectacular, if less common, indications of the great wealth amassed by Charleston-area planters and merchants by the mid-eighteenth century. Drayton Hall, Archdale Hall, and Middleton Place, to name just three examples, were built by 1750. In less than fifty years, the rice and indigo cultures created a new aristocracy in the area which attempted to pattern itself after the tradition of the Old World while retaining the vitality of the New World. Drayton Hall is operated as an architectural museum by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Middleton Place, including perhaps the earliest designed landscape garden in America, is operated as a museum and garden.(12)

Charleston and its surrounding areas became the scene for many major and minor military campaigns and actions during the American Revolution. After the city surrendered in 1780 the British remained as an occupation force for over two years. Many planters and merchants, not willing to risk their fortunes, abandoned their plantations along the rivers and took protection under the occupation. Though the official policy was to encourage Loyalist support, there were many incidents in which plantations were ransacked and slaves were induced to run away.(13)

The economy of the Ashley River plantations, particularly those which had been struggling to produce inland rice even before the war, suffered so heavily from neglect during the Revolution that they faced a long rebuilding process at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Soon after 1800 most of the ricefields along the river were converted into the production of long-staple, commonly called sea island, cotton. This crop, which required less acreage, less irrigation, and a smaller labor force than rice, also allowed for the expansion of fields to the interior. Though it usually commanded a much higher price than the short-staple cotton grown in the upcountry, sea-island cotton yielded smaller quantities of product to the acre and demanded a larger labor force than the upland variety. Most Ashley River plantations grew small quantities of cotton and rice during the period from 1800 to 1860.(14)

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Several ambitious antebellum plans to improve the area economy were drafted, most of which proposed increased use of the Ashley River. Though bridges and ferries across the river had been maintained and operated since the early eighteenth century, they were not always efficient means of transportation. Legal disputes over ownership and profits often occurred, and the bridges and ferries were particularly vulnerable to storms and floods.(15) The new proposals were based on the idea that inland navigation would be more efficient than roads for purposes of transporting produce and other goods to Charleston. One plan to build a canal connecting the Ashley and the Edisto Rivers was proposed as early as the 1780s. It met with much enthusiasm from the public and some resistance from planters, but was never implemented.(16) Another attempt to boost the production of Ashley River plantations in the mid-nineteenth century included surveys of the phosphate deposits along the river, in an effort to find a source for inexpensive and effective fertilizers.(17)

The steadily-declining Ashley River plantations suffered little for the first three years of the Civil War. Though the city was an important Confederate seaport and was under continuous siege for nearly two of those years, the nearby plantations did not suffer as much as they had during the American Revolution. By 1864, however, the Union shelling of the city had forced many residents to refugee to the outlying areas. Plantation owners fled the coast, slaves ran to the protection of the Federal armies, and by the fall of Charleston in early 1865 victorious Union troops laid waste to much of the lowcountry.(18) The Ashley River plantations were particularly devastated--one estimate is that nearly forty main houses along both sides of the river were burned by the Federals--and the survival of Drayton Hall was an exception rather than the rule.(19) The long process of rebuilding after this war was made more difficult by two major developments--the end of the cotton-based plantation system and the influx of thousands of newly-freed blacks into an economy which had little room for competition.

There were some gradual improvements in the Ashley River area during Reconstruction, most of them in agriculture or agricultural-related industry. One of the rising new postwar industries in the area was fertilizers, most notably in the development of phosphates, which had been attempted without success before the Civil War. Some of the most productive phosphate mines were along the upper Ashley. The first mines were established in 1867 and by the 1880s several operations flourished, due largely to South Carolina's virtual monopoly of phosphate production in its early years. In the 1890s, however, natural disasters, financial woes, and competition from mines and mills in other Southern states combined to send the Charleston-area industry into a slump.(20)

Cotton was the predominant staple crop in the area immediately after the war, though there was some cultivation of rice at greatly-reduced levels of productivity. By 1880 cotton production had doubled from its 1865 totals. Rice cultivation, however, was too costly and inefficient using free labor to be profitable on a large scale.(21)

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Another boost to the area economy, and one which is still a large part of the Ashley River's significance today, was the gradual growth and development of the Charleston-area tourism industry. The tourism industry can be said to have begun with Magnolia Plantation--now Magnolia Gardens--which was opened to the public in 1870. The association of grand Ashley River plantations with the Charleston tourism industry, of course, has continued through the twentieth-century success of Middleton Place and Drayton Hall. Many visitors to the city, drawn there by its combination of history, architecture, landscaped gardens, and the myths of the Old South, tour the Ashley River plantations and gardens as part of their stay in Charleston.(22)

This district is particularly rich in archaeological sites spanning the period from ca. 1670 to the early twentieth century. Some of these sites have the potential to yield valuable information about the evolution of agrarian landscapes during the colonial through post-Civil War periods. When considered together as part of a National Register district, these individual sites offer an excellent opportunity to apply the concepts of landscape archaeology, which in turn can be used to document changes in social interactions through time in a rural setting.

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(2) The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 4 series, 128 vols. (Washington: G.P.O., 1880-1901), Series I, Volumes 14:776, 842-43, and 28, pt. 1:114; Q.A. Gillmore, Supplementary Report to Engineer and Artillery Operations Against the Defences of Charleston Harbor in 1863, Professional Papers, Corps of Engineers U.S.A. No. 16--Supplement (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1868), pp. 17-18, and "Map of the Defences of Charleston City and Harbor showing also the Works Erected by the U.S. Forces in 1863 and 1864."

(3) Cf. Forty-Fourth Annual Report of the Railroad Commission of South Carolina, 1922 (Columbia: Gonzales and Bryan, State Printers, 1923), p. 5, referring to the construction of a second track on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad from Bennetts, approximately three miles southwest, to the Ashley River; and U.S. House of Representatives, Letter from the Secretary of War Transmitting a Letter from the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, Dated April 6, 1936, Submitting a Report, Together with Accompanying Papers and Illustration on a Preliminary Examination and Survey and Reexamination of Ashley River, S.C., Municipal Yacht Basin and Connecting Channels, and Channels to the Grounds of the South Carolina Military Academy (the Citadel), Authorized by the River and Harbor Act Approved August 30, 1935, and Requested by Resolution of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, House of Representatives, Adopted February 13, 1935, House of Representatives, 74th Congress, 2nd Session, Document 449 (Washington: G.P.O., 1936), pp. 8, 14, and Map, "Ashley River, S.C., Mouth to Standard Wharf"; J. Tracy Power, Ian D. Hill, and Chloe Mercer, South Carolina SHPO, Interview with Bob Youngblood, CSX Transportation, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Trestle, Ashley River, Charleston County, S.C., 9 July 1991.

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(6) Gene Waddell, Indians of the South Carolina Lowcountry 1562-1751 (Columbia: Southern Studies Program, University of South Carolina, 1980), pp. 3-15, 28.

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(8) Rogers, p. 9; Gray, Volume I, pp. 277-280; Smith, "The Ashley River," 4.

(9) Henry A.M. Smith, "The Town of Dorchester in South Carolina--A Sketch of Its History," South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine VI:2 (April 1905), 62-95; VI:3 (July 1905), 127-30; Legare Walker, Dorchester County: A History of its Genesis, of the Lands Constituting its area, and of some of its Settlements, Institutions, Relics, Events, and other matters of an historical nature, especially with respect to its Southeastern portion (1941; Privately Printed, 1979), pp. 49-66, 82-85; Richard Carrillo, "Preliminary Archaeological Investigations at Fort Dorchester (38DR4)," Research Manuscript Series 39 (Columbia: Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1973).

(10) Gray, Volume I, pp. 156-57, 280-297; Walter J. Fraser, Charleston! Charleston!: The History of a Southern City (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1989), pp. 13-97; Peter A. Coclanis, The Shadow of a Dream: Economic Life and Death in the South Carolina Low Country 1670-1920 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 48-115; Smith, "The Ashley River," 4.

(11) Gray, Volume II, pp. 721-731; Abram Blanding, Report of the Superintendent of Public Works of South-Carolina, For the Year 1825 (Columbia, 1826), reprinted in David Kohn, compiler and editor, Internal Improvement in South Carolina 1817-1828: From the Reports of the Superintendent of Public Works and From Contemporary Pamphlets, Newspaper Clippings, Letters, Petitions, and Maps (Washington: Privately Printed, 1938), pp. 369-382; John R. Mathews, et al, "Petition Opposing the Construction of a Canal Linking the Edisto and Ashley Rivers," ca. 1845, in General Assembly Papers, Petitions 1782-1868, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

(12) Smith, "The Ashley River," 23-27, 91-100, 115-122; Dorothy Gail Griffin, "The Eighteenth-Century Draytons of Drayton Hall," unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, Emory University, 1985; Lynne G. Lewis, Drayton Hall: Preliminary Archaeological Investigation at a Low Country Plantation (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1978); Kenneth E. Lewis and Donald L. Hardesty, "Middleton Place: Initial Archaeological Investigations at an Ashley River Rice Plantation," Research Manuscript Series No. 148 (Columbia: Institute of

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Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1979); Carl Bridenbaugh, Myths and Realities: Societies of the Colonial South (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952); Rogers, passim.; National Register of Historic Places Files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

(13) Rogers, pp. 43-48; H. Henry Lumpkin, From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981), pp. 41-50, 279; George Smith McCowen, Jr., The British Occupation of Charleston, 1780-82, Tricentennial Studies, Number 5 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1972); Jerome J. Nadelhaft, The Disorders of War: The Revolution in South Carolina (Orono: University of Maine at Orono Press, 1981); Robert S. Lambert, South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987).

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(18) E. Milby Burton, The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1970); Fraser, p. 247-269; Don H. Doyle, New Men, New Cities, New South: Atlanta, Nashville, Charleston, Mobile, 1860-1910 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), pp. 52-55.

(19) Smith, "The Ashley River," 3-51, 75-122.

(20) Ruffin, pp. 10-16; Philip E. Chazal, The Century in Phosphates and Fertilizers: A Sketch of the South Carolina Phosphate Industry (Charleston: The News and Courier, 1904), pp. 3-5, 23-25, 34-53, 56, 61-64, 66; South Carolina State Board of Agriculture, South Carolina. Resources and Population.

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Institutions and Industries (Charleston: Walker, Evans, and Cogswell, 1883), pp. 47-52; Doyle, pp. 79-80, 174-75.

(21) Doyle, pp. 71-76; Jamie W. Moore, "The Lowcountry in Economic Transition: Charleston Since 1865," South Carolina Historical Magazine 80:1 (January 1979), 156-171; South Carolina State Board of Agriculture, South Carolina, pp. 29-41, 56-58; South Carolina State Board of Agriculture, Handbook of South Carolina: Resources, Institutions and Industries of the State (Columbia: The State Company, 1907), p. 263.

(22) Dolores Lashley, Legacy of Beauty (Columbia: The State Printing Company, 1969); Loutrel W. Briggs, Charleston Gardens (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1951), pp. 103-127; Smith, "The Ashley River," 3-51, 75-122; National Register of Historic Places Files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C. Drayton Hall, for example, had over 57,000 visitors, with admission receipts of \$200,000, in fiscal year 1988. In spite of damage caused by Hurricane Hugo in September 1989, the property had over 42,000 visitors, with admission receipts of over \$190,000, in fiscal year 1989.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated district is shown as the black line on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps, Johns Island, S.C., Ladson, S.C., and Stallville, S.C., Quadrangles, drawn at a scale of 1:24000.

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries have been drawn to include a significant portion of the Ashley River and properties associated with it that illustrate the historic, archaeological, and cultural significance of the river from ca. 1670 to ca. 1940. The southwest boundary of the district, the Ashley River Road, is individually listed in the National Register and is historically tied to the river's use as a transportation route; the northeast boundary of the district generally follows the marshline of the Ashley River in order to exclude large areas of modern development; and the southeast and northwest boundaries of the district have been drawn to include the greatest concentration of contributing properties possible along the river.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Ashley River Historic District  
Location of property: Charleston & Dorchester Counties, South Carolina

Additional information for each photograph follows:

Charleston County

1. **Ashley River**  
June 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Riverbank at Magnolia Gardens, Facing Northwest
2. **Ashley River Road**  
June 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Facing Northwest
3. **Fort Bull**  
March 1993  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Southeast Elevation
4. **Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Trestle**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Northeast Elevation
5. **Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Trestle**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
South Elevation, down Railroad Tracks

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Ashley River Historic District  
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county and State

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6. **Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Trestle**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Detail of Trestle mechanism
7. **Drayton Hall**  
April 1990  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
River Facade
8. **Drayton Hall Archaeological Site (38CH255)**  
July 1989  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Excavation at Orangerie
9. **Magnolia Gardens Plantation House**  
June 1991  
Photographer: Preservation Consultants, Charleston, S.C.  
Location of negative: Preservation Consultants, Charleston, S.C.  
Entry Facade
10. **Magnolia Gardens**  
June 1991  
Photographer: Preservation Consultants, Charleston, S.C.  
Location of negative: Preservation Consultants, Charleston, S.C.  
Cypress Pond Bridge
11. **Runnymede**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
River Facade
12. **Runnymede Schoolhouse**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
North Elevation; River Facade

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Dorchester County

13. **Middleton Place Plantation House**  
April 1990  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Plantation House, South Wing
14. **Middleton Place**  
ca. 1980  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, & Tourism  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, & Tourism  
Aerial view of Butterfly Lakes
15. **The Laurels**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
River Facade
16. **The Laurels Caretaker's House**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Facade
17. **Fort Dorchester, Old Dorchester State Park**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
View from Interior of Fort Dorchester
18. **Ruins of Parish Church, St. George, Old Dorchester State Park**  
July 1991  
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
Facade of Church Tower

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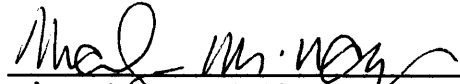
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001514      Date Listed: 9/12/94

Ashley River Historic District      Charleston      SOUTH CAROLINA  
Property Name      County      State

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10/13/94  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

This nomination is amended to clarify the count:

The following contributing resources within the Ashley River Historic District are nominated in this document:

- 1. Ashley River: 1 site
- 3. Fort Bull: 1 structure
- 4. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Trestle: 1 structure
- 5. Thomas Smith Archeological Site (38CH691): 1 site
- 6. Malcolm Boat Archeological Site (38CH803): 1 site
- 10. Ashley T-4 Wreck Archeological Site (38CH437): 1 site
- 11. Runnymede: 1 building
- 12. Runnymede Schoolhouse: 1 building
- 13. Mr. Ladson Archeological Site (38CH696): 1 site
- 14. Archdate #1 Archeological Site (38DR153): 1 site
- 15. Izard Plantation Archeological Site (38DR60): 1 site
- 16. Ashley River Phosphate Mine Archeological Site (38DR81): 1 site
- 17. Spring Farm Archeological Site (38DR161): 1 site

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD (page 2)**

- 20. Cedar Grove Plantation Site (38DR158): 1 site
- 21. Cedar Grove Causeway Archeological Site (38DR155): 1 site
- 22. The Laurels: 1 building and 1 site
- 23. The Laurels Caretaker's House: 1 contributing building

The following contributing resources within the Ashley River Historic District have been previously listed in the National Register:

- 2. Ashley River Road: 1 structure (listed 11/22/83)
- 7. Drayton Hall: 2 buildings and 2 sites (listed 10/15/66)
- 9. Magnolia Gardens: 8 buildings, 3 sites, and 1 structure (listed 12/11/72)
- 18. Middleton Place: 9 buildings, 3 sites, and 1 structure (listed 5/6/71)
- 24. Old Dorchester State Park: 1 building and 4 sites (listed 12/2/69)

This information was provided by Tracy Power of the South Carolina SHPO.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)