Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PH0698113

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 26 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 24 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fonti Flora Plantation (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON
Pearson Place

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
5.4 miles northeast of Monticello on ~~the east side of~~ S.C. Highway 99 (formerly Old Columbia Road) __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Monticello X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th

STATE
South Carolina

CODE
045

COUNTY
Fairfield

CODE
039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
George W. & Katherine Pearson Tomlin ✓

STREET & NUMBER
Fonti Flora

CITY, TOWN
Blair __ VICINITY OF

STATE
South Carolina 29015

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Fairfield County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Winnsboro

STATE
South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE
1973 (update) __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
South Carolina Department of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fonti Flora Plantation is located in a rural area of the western portion of Fairfield County, South Carolina. Constructed circa 1836 by Dr. George Butler Pearson and Elisabeth Pearson, it is a notable example of Greek Revival form and Gothic Revival detail.

Exterior: Fonti Flora is a 2½-story clapboard residence set on low foundations. The front facade of the house is dominated by a full width 2-story Greek Revival portico. Each story of the portico is supported by six paneled piers, and the second story features a plain balustrade. The entire portico is surmounted by a flat deck which has a cast iron railing. Both stories of the front facade feature a centrally located single door surrounded by transom and sidelights with traceries and movable sash. The entrance is framed by a massive Greek architrave crowned by acroteria. Located on each side of the doorway are two 9/6 windows, each of which is surrounded by symmetrically molded trim with cornerblocks. Panelled moveable aprons are located under each window and allow movement between the interior rooms and the portico. On the first story, concrete has replaced the original wooden floor.

Although Fonti Flora is largely Greek Revival in style, the structure does offer a variation of form in its use of a decorative detail that is in the Gothic Style. This is evident on the front facade whose projecting cross gable is dominated by a tripartite Gothic window. Identical tripartite Gothic windows are located on the cross gable of each of the side facades. The side facades are clapboard and feature 9/6 and 6/6 windows located in four bays. The house features two interior chimneys located along the main roof ridge. Two exterior chimneys are located on the one story shed roof addition which extends across the rear of the house.

Interior: The interior of Fonti Flora features a typical floor plan with a central hall flanked on each side by symmetrical rooms. The core of the house was originally two rooms deep. A one-story porch, which extended across the rear facade, was subsequently enclosed. The left side of the porch appears to have been enclosed at an early date; its large open double doorway makes it an extension of the dining room. The right portion of the porch has also been enclosed and at present serves as a combination den and kitchen. Access to the den from the main hallway is through a large doorway which is identical to the front entrance. The doorway features transom and sidelights and is surrounded by a massive Greek architrave. Other alterations to the house consist of the addition of two baths, the placement of narrow bead siding in the right rear bedroom on the first floor and the placement of modern paneling in the upstairs hall.

Surroundings: Located in a rural section of Fairfield County, Fonti Flora maintains much of its original setting. The house is set some 500 feet off of Highway 99 at the end of a tree-lined lane . Although none of the original outbuildings remain, the remnants of Dr. George Butler Pearson's garden are found in the form of boxwood located in the front and sides of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		Local history

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in rural Fairfield County, Fonti Flora Plantation was constructed circa 1836 by Dr. George Butler Pearson and Elisabeth Alston Pearson. Fonti Flora is an example of a blend of Greek Revival Style with elements of Gothic detail in a private residence. Still owned by the Pearson family, Fonti Flora has maintained a notable continuity in ownership, setting and architectural form.

Fonti Flora is believed to be the only historic structure remaining extant which is associated with the Pearson family, who were among the earliest settlers of Fairfield and Richland Counties. The Fonti Flora property came into Pearson hands in 1833 when James Alston of Fairfield gave 2,303 acres to his daughter Elisabeth Alston Pearson. Family tradition indicates that Elisabeth Pearson and her husband George Butler Pearson, constructed Fonti Flora prior to 1836. George Butler Pearson (1785-1867) was a physician and a farmer, who had an avid interest in horticulture. He is said to have developed extensive gardens and orchards adjacent to Fonti Flora. These gardens are believed to have featured rare shrubs and herbs which Dr. Pearson used in his medical work. Indeed, the name "Fonti Flora" came from Dr. Pearson's involvement with horticulture.

In 1849 the Pearsons placed Fonti Flora in trust for the use of Elisabeth Pearson and her heirs. The property consequently was occupied by Elisabeth Pearson's son, George Butler Pearson Jr. (1829-1898). Family tradition indicates that George Pearson Jr. had taken over the family's farming activities even prior to his father's death in 1867. Except for a brief period when he served in the Confederate army, Pearson farmed at Fonti Flora until his death in 1898. His son, William Boyce Pearson, subsequently took up the family tradition of farming at Fonti Flora. Members of each of these generations of the Pearson family were regarded as prominent members of the Fairfield County community. At present, Fonti Flora continues to be occupied by members of the Pearson family.

Architecture: Fonti Flora Plantation is an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Constructed as a plantation house, Fonti Flora is characterized by notable architectural features which include its two-story portico supported by paneled piers, the front door with its massive Greek architrave crowned by acroteria, and panelled moveable aprons located underneath the front facade's windows. In addition, the presence of tripartite Gothic windows on the structure's front and side facades offers an interesting combination of the standard Greek Revival form and Gothic Revival detail.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Fairfield Sketchbook. Clinton, S.C.: Jacobs Brothers, 1963, pp. 256-260.

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. Our Heritage. nd.

continued

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	468220	3806560	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on north, south, and east sides by property belonging to George W. and Katherine Pearson Tomlin. It is located 5.4 miles northeast of Monticello on the east side of S.C. Highway 99; bounded by a line, beginning at the southeast corner along S.C. 99 and following a line 495' east; thence north along a line 690' long; then west along a line 258' long; then returning south for 636' to the point of origin.

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
Julie Burr, Historic Preservation Division (Nancy Fox, Central Midlands Regional Planning Council Mr. & Mrs. George Tomlin)

ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE
January 16, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE
(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

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

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4-24-79

ATTEST: Bill Lebovich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE April 24, 1979

"Confederate Service Record of George Butler Pearson." Complied Service Record of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

"Death of Two Worthy Old Citizens." Fairfield News and Herald, October 30, 1867.

Ederington, William. History of Fairfield County, South Carolina. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Willo Publishing Co., n.d.

Federal Census of the United States, Fairfield District, South Carolina. Washington, D.C. 1840 (p. 167), 1850 (p. 208).

Green, Edwin L. History of Richland County. Columbia: R. L. Bryan Co., 1932, pp. 51-53.

Groves, Joseph A. The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina. Atlanta: Franklin Printing Co., 1901, p. 100.

Interview with Mrs. Katherine Pearson Tomlin, January 2, 1979.

Meriwether, Robert L. The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765. Kingsport, Tennessee: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940, pp. 156-157.

Pearson Family History. The Papers of Fitz Hugh McMaster. South Caroliniana Library.

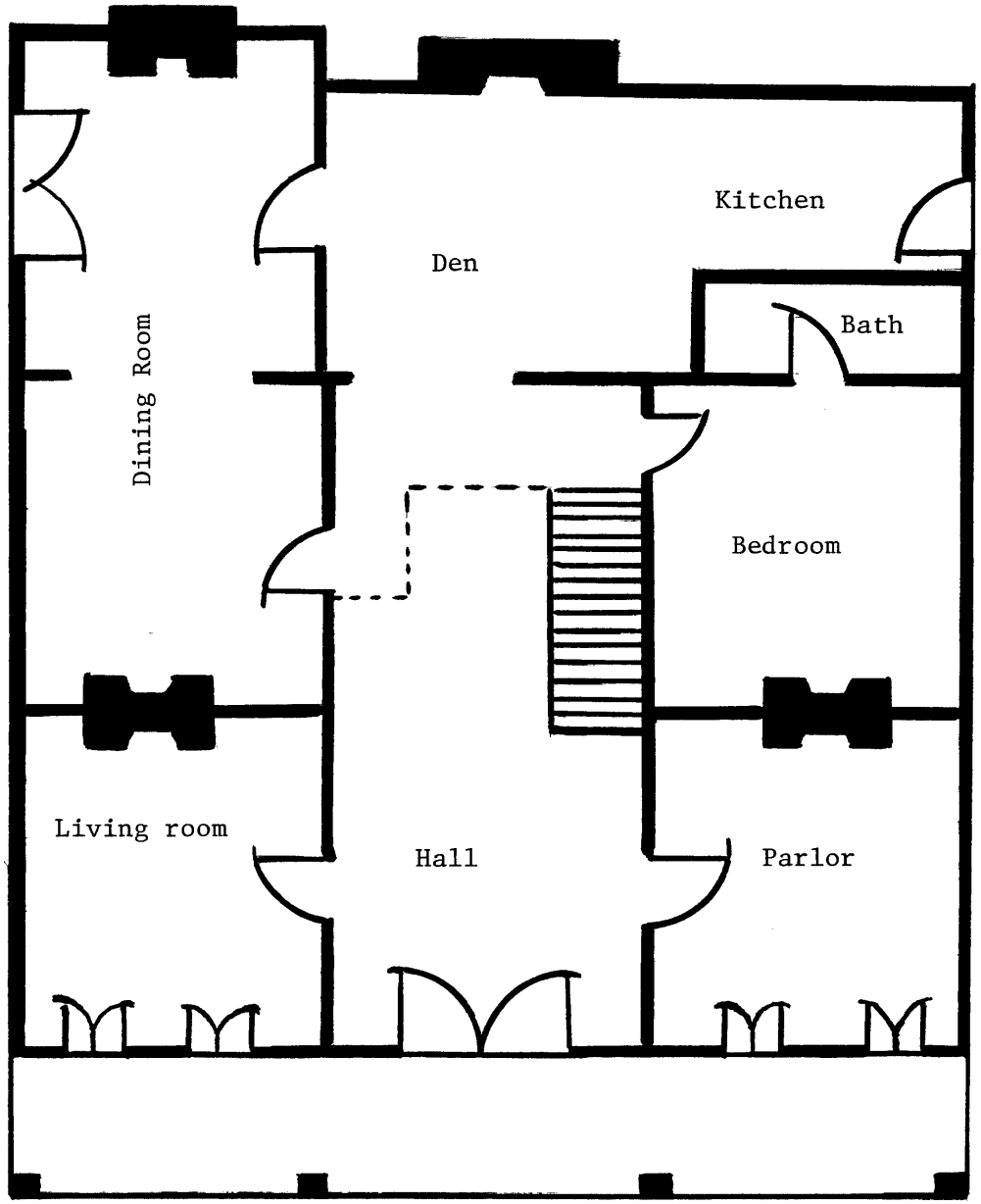
Pearson Family Papers in the possession of Katherine Pearson Tomlin.

Records of Mesne Conveyance for Fairfield County, Deed Book LL p. 76, Deed Book RR pp. 207-209. South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

"W. B. Pearson Dies at Home in County: Prominent Fairfield Citizen Passes Sunday Morning at Fonti Flora Plantation." News and Herald, November 20, 1941.

FONTI FLORA
PLANTATION

]st Floor



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Fonti Flora Plantation
Fairfield County
Sketch plan of 1st floor
Julie Burr 1979

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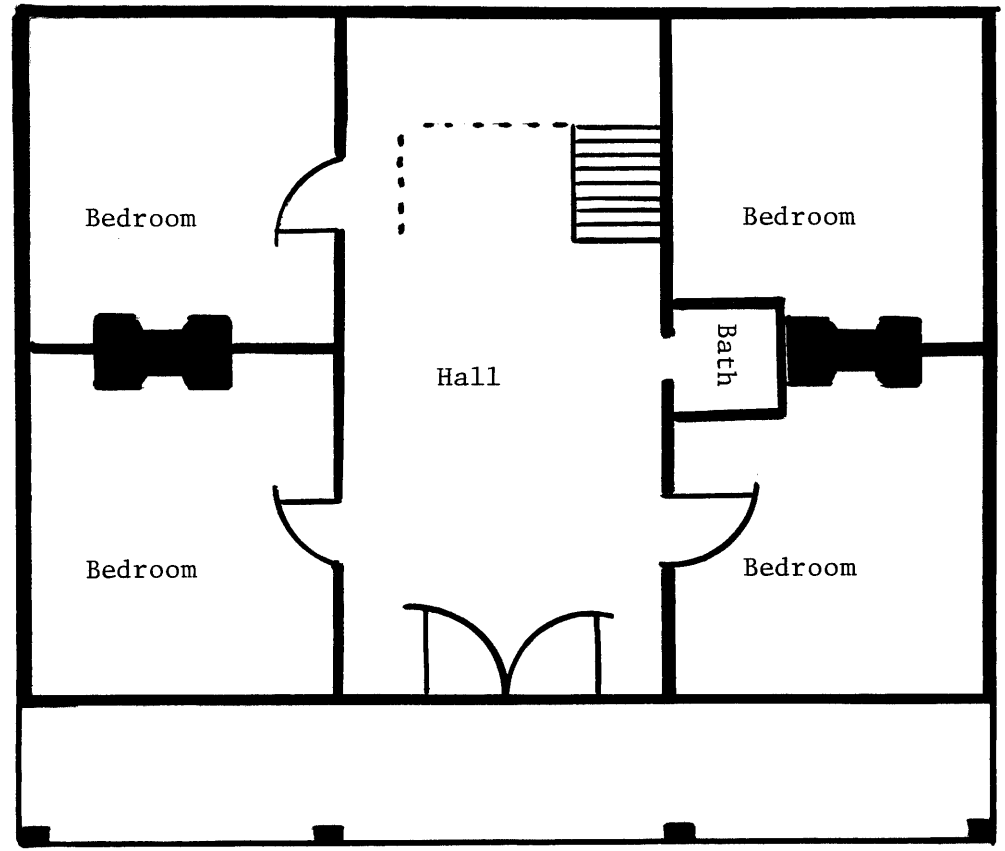
Fonti Flora
Plantation

2nd Floor



Fonti Flora Plantation
Fairfield County,South Carolina
Sketch plan of 2nd floor
Julie Burr 1979