S. C. District #6 -- Rep. John L. McMillan Themes 5,7,8 &9

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Special Attention

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
South Carolina	
COUNTY:	
Georgetown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 15 1972

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2-27-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Pawleys Island Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded N by Williamson House property line, S by Prevost House property line, E. by Atlantic Ocean and W. by Marshlands.

CITY OR TOWN: Pawleys Island

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	45	Georgetown	043

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[X] District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object	[ ] Public [X] Private [ ] Both	Public Acquisition: [ ] In Process [ ] Being Considered	[X] Occupied [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Preservation work in progress	Yes: [X] Restricted [ ] Unrestricted [ ] No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

[ ] Agricultural [ ] Government [ ] Park [ ] Transportation [ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial [ ] Industrial [X] Private Residence [ ] Other *(Specify)*
[ ] Educational [ ] Military [ ] Religious
[ ] Entertainment [ ] Museum [ ] Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Varied Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Georgetown County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Screven Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Georgetown	South Carolina	45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Waccamaw Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 [ ] Federal [ ] State [X] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Waccamaw Regional Planning and Development Council

STREET AND NUMBER: 1001 Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Georgetown	South Carolina	45

STATE: COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	[X] Excellent	[X] Good	[X] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	[X] Altered	[ ] Unaltered		[ ] Moved	[X] Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pawleys Island is today approximately three and one-quarter miles long and, at its widest point, about one-fourth mile across. Between the island and the mainland lie the salt water creek and marsh, as much a part of the Pawleys charm as is the ocean with its wide white beach. Sandy dunes topped with sea oats, yucca, myrtle, bay, tamarisk and oak protect the houses against frequent coastal storms.

Two causeways connect Pawleys with the mainland at Waccamaw Neck. Robert F. W. Allston (1800-1864), South Carolina Governor and planter, directed the construction of the older causeway which was built by slave labor.

The original houses on Pawleys are not mansions but summer retreats, sturdily built and large enough to accommodate big families. Cypress lumber, the building material most frequently used, was hewn on the mainland where each timber was chiselled with Roman numerals for easy assemblage on the island. Plantation carpenters and brickmasons were transported to Pawleys to assemble the houses which are held together by wooden pegs, mortise and tenon joints and hand-cut nails. Most of the residences are built on high brick foundations which protect the houses against the rise of ordinary gale tides and facilitate ventilation. Piazzas (usually on southeast and southwest walls but sometimes encircling the house on all sides) and the arrangement of doors, windows and hallways for cross ventilation allowed summer residents to take full advantage of ocean breezes. Since the plantation families resided at Pawleys from May to November, the houses were equipped with large chimneys and fireplaces. Breezeways attached at the rear of the houses led to the kitchens. Servants' quarters, located on the grounds, were usually one or two room cabins equipped with fireplaces. A few remain.

Two other categories of structures important to Pawleys are the wooden docks with open "summer houses" extending into the salt water creek and the long boardwalks with "summer houses" which cross the dunes and offer easy access to the beach.

Over the years, the original lots have been divided and newer houses which follow the traditional architectural design have been built between the old ones. After World War II, a number of houses were built on the south end of the island; most of these, however, were washed away by hurricane Hazel on October 15, 1954. A tribute to their original builders, the older Pawleys houses withstood Hazel as they have withstood many hurricanes of the past. The ten oldest homes included the following:

The Allston-Grant House--Built 1845 by Governor R.F.W. Allston on 20 acres of land fronting the beach. Actually there were two houses situated at right angles. Each had two large rooms on the first floor and two rooms above, equally large, but only half-story. The front house closer to the beach, ran north and south; the second ran east and west. Both houses had wide, encircling piazzas. The Allston family used this home until 1863 when U. S. gun boats patrolling the shore made it unsafe.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [X] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [X] 20th Century

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SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	[X] Education	[ ] Political	[ ] Urban Planning
[ ] Prehistoric	[ ] Engineering	[ ] Religion/Philosophy	[X] Other *(Specify)* Vernacular Building
[ ] Historic	[ ] Industry	[ ] Science	Plantation Lifestyle
[ ] Agriculture	[ ] Invention	[ ] Sculpture	
[ ] Architecture	[ ] Landscape Architecture	[ ] Social/Humanitarian	
[ ] Art	[ ] Literature	[ ] Theater	
[ ] Commerce	[X] Military	[ ] Transportation	
[ ] Communications	[ ] Music		
[ ] Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This island, especially the central part, exemplifies a way of life in its beauty, its setting and its overall land use. Pawleys is one of the earliest -- if not the earliest -- of South Carolina's summer beach settlements and maintains integrity in the natural relationship of marsh, beach and dune. The unusual number of old houses which have been maintained enhances the natural environment to which they are well adapted. In fact, the practicality and charm of the traditional Pawleys houses have led more recent builders to imitate their predecessors to the extent that current building styles on the island are obviously an organic outgrowth of the original style.

Vernacular Building: The building style of Pawleys Island Historic District is a variation of West Indian architecture which has been adapted to Pawleys climatic conditions. Designed for the greatest degree of ventilation, with high foundations providing protection against gable tides, the Pawleys building style has been time-tested for comfort and durability. Because this architectural style is so compatible with the natural Pawleys environment, many of the 20th Century buildings have adhered to the traditional design.

Plantation Lifestyle: The Georgetown District rice planters who produced 36,360,000 pounds of the 80,841,422-pound national rice yield in 1840 were well-educated men, members of the elite agrarian society which flourished in South Carolina prior to the Civil War. These were the men who developed Pawleys Island as an escape from the malarial-infested rice fields of their mainland plantations. Families, slaves and house-hold goods were transported to Pawleys in May and returned to the mainland in November. Among the prominent planters who built summer homes at Pawleys were R.F.W. Allston of Chicora Wood Plantation; Colonel Joshua John Ward of Brookgreen Plantation who also owned Magnolia, Alderly, Prospect Hill, Springfield and Longwood Plantations; Plowden Weston of "Hagley" Plantation; John Hyrne Tucker, Litchfield Plantation; Major Robert Nesbit of Clendonia Plantation; John LaBruce, owner of Oak Hill Plantation; and Mrs. Jane Rose Barnwell of Enfield Plantation.

Education: Believers in the indispensability of education, R. F. W. Allston, graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, and Colonel Joshua John Ward, who received his education at Harrow and Cambridge, pooled their resources with several other planters to form All Saints Academy. A German tutor, the Rev. C.B. Thummel, former student of the universities of Halle and Tubingen was hired to teach English, French, German, Latin, Greek, music, drawing, painting

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic House Tour. The Women of All Saints' Waccamaw Episcopal Church, Georgetown, South Carolina

Prevost, Charlotte Kaminski. Pawley's Island...A Living Legend. Columbia, South Carolina: The State Printing Company, 1972.

Pringle, Elizabeth Allston. Chronicles of Chicora Wood. New York, 1923.

Rogers, George C. Jr. The History of Georgetown County. Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1970, pp. 261, 264, 272, 314-15, 334, 413, 415, 507.

Vaughn, Celina McGregor. Pawley's As It Was. Columbia, S. C.: The State Printing Company, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	33°	26'	19"	79°	07'	50"
NE	33°	25'	57"	79°	06'	59"
SE	33°	24'	34"	79°	07'	50"
SW	34°	24'	55"	79°	08'	40"

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: (Nancy R. Ruhf and Christie Z. Fant--Archives)
Katherine Wright Kelly, Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION: Waccamaw Regional Planning & Development Council

DATE: September 5, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1001 Front Street

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Charles E. Lee

Charles E. Lee, Director

Title: S.C. Dept. of Archives & His.

Date: September 5, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robertson Utley

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/15/72

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: Nov. 9, 1972

Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Pawleys Island Historic District
7. Description -- Continuation Sheet No. 1

The Labruce-Lemon House--This home, usually referred to as the LaBruce house, was part of the original colony established by the rice planters. Except for considerable loss of sand dunes and three servants' houses, the house is thought to be little changed from the original.

The Nesbit-Norburn House--Built by Dr. Robert Nesbit in 1780, one of the oldest and best preserved houses on the island. Differs from the other old island homes by having its dormers on the northeast. The house remained in the Nesbit family from the time it was built until sold to its present owners.

The Ward-Prevost House--Built by Col. Joshua John Ward, one of the greatest and wealthiest of the rice planters. From 1841 until the War Between the States, the structure was used as a summer Academy for young men. The present owner is a descendant of the builder.

The Bartol-Calhoun House (or Pawley House: see supplementary material)--Thought to be one of the oldest houses on Pawley's Island, although no records of ownership are available prior to 1866. Built in the traditional island style with porches on several sides, the house remains much the same as it was originally built.

The Tuck-Boyle House--This house has pegged understructure with some modern bracing; the door has been changed but retains the transom; most of the windows have 12/12 sash.

The Post-Ellerbe House--One and one-half story cottage with later asbestos siding, roof dormers, new sash in the front elevation. Weatherboarding is put up with wrought iron nails, and is circular sawn. The rafters are pegged, the door has its transom, and the windows have board and batten shutters with later strap hinges. The chimney has an interesting diagonal brick cap. Appears to have been built in the mid 19th Century.

The Hughes-Hamby House--Good entrance with transom and side lights, and the tall windows have panelled shutters. Wrought and cut nails are visible.

Analyses provided by Russell Wright, A.I.P., Reston, Virginia. Excerpts from Pawley House Archeological Survey by Dr. Stanley South.

This district includes the central portion of the island, 8400 feet long and 1400 feet wide. Shoreline and marshland have been included in the boundaries since these are an integral part of the district both historically and geographically.

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Pawleys Island Historic District
8. Significance -- Continuation Sheet No. 1

and dancing to 12-15 children of both sexes. During the summer months, the academy operated on Pawley's Island in the building which is now the Ward-Prevost Residence. (Included is an 1848 sketch of the south point of Pawley's with the academy labeled.)

Military Significance: During the War of Jenkins' Ear, 1739-1748, the coast between Georgetown and Charleston was beset with Spanish privateers based in Cuba. In August, 1745, a schooner carrying Percival Pawley and his grandson (members of the family for which the island is named) was captured by a group of privateers. The militia was called out but an invasion from the sea never materialized.

During the Revolution, the Pawleys area was raided by British troops who stole several slaves from Anthony and Percival Pawley. Cornwallis made his headquarters at nearby Brookgreen Plantation in 1781. However, the most important activity in this area during the Revolution was the production of salt for Francis Marion's troops on Snow's Island. One source states that the Continental Army used 20 bushels of salt weekly.

Although no active fighting took place on Pawleys during the War Between the States, the island's residents were strong supporters of the Confederacy. Plowden Weston of "Hagley" Plantation, for instance, served as captain of the Georgetown Rifle Guards and outfitted his entire company with winter and summer uniforms. One minor skirmish occurred on June 2, 1864, when the Rose was run ashore on Pawleys Island by Federals. When the Northerners tried to drag her off, a force of 75 Confederate cavalrymen drove them away. Salt from the Pawleys area was also an important commodity. Among the accounts and papers of R.F.W. Allston is a record stating that between August and October of 1864 the estate of Governor Allston received $8,501.48 for the sale of salt.

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Pawleys Island Historic District

9. Major Bibliographical References -- Continuation Sheet No. 1

WPA. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941, p. 277.

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