

PA 1004559

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:          | Georgetown     |  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |                |  |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE           |  |
|                  | DEC 30 1974    |  |

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Georgetown Lighthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Georgetown Light

2. LOCATION

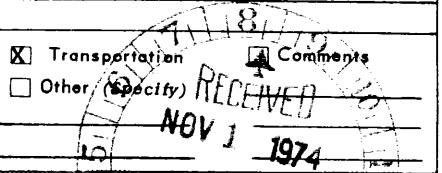
STREET AND NUMBER:  
On North Island about 12 miles southeast of Georgetown

CITY OR TOWN:  
Georgetown

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Georgetown      CODE: 043

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific |   |   |   |



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Thomas A. Yawkey (leased to U.S. Coast Guard)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Island Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Georgetown County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Screven Street

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal     State     County     Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

DEC 30 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

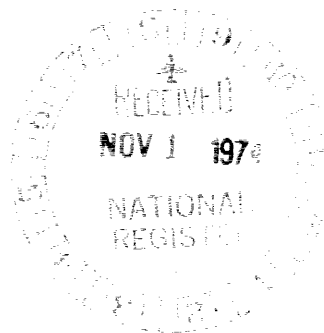
|           |   |  |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|-----------|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |  |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" 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

Begun in 1799, the Georgetown Lighthouse was completed and lighted in 1801. The light was rebuilt in 1812 and again in 1867, presumably as a result of damage inflicted during the War Between the States. The lighthouse tower, in the shape of a truncated cone, is 87 feet tall. The stairs and center supporting post were cut from solid stone, and the outer walls are of brick. The light is still active and is manned by the U.S. Coast Guard.

SURROUNDINGS:

The lighthouse is located about one-half mile from the Atlantic Ocean and several hundred feet from Winyah Bay, on North Island. The lighthouse complex is in a cleared area of scrub-covered sand dunes and includes several one-story buildings that form the coast guard station, a dock on Winyah Bay, and a radio tower. Presently the island can be reached only from Georgetown, the nearest city, by boat across Winyah Bay.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1801**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Georgetown Lighthouse is the oldest active lighthouse in South Carolina and one of the oldest in existence on the south Atlantic coast. During the War Between the States, the lighthouse was used by the Confederates as an observation post, until it was captured by Union forces in 1862.

COMMERCE, TRANSPORTATION:

Soon after the formation of the United States, the Federal government realized that lighthouses and other aids to navigation were a national concern. As a result, on August 7, 1789, Congress passed an Act giving the central government responsibility for all aids to navigation and took over all lighthouses then in operation as well as those under construction.

Modern records indicate that at the beginning of the 19th Century, the Southern Coast from Delaware Bay to the Florida border had only four lights. They were:

1. Charleston (Morris Island) South Carolina (1767)
2. Tybee Island, Georgia (1748)
3. Cape Henry, Virginia (1792)
4. Cape Fear, North Carolina (1795)

None of these lights are in operation today.

In 1789, however, Paul Trapier made a "gratuitous cession" of land on which a lighthouse was to be built. A lighthouse was begun on North Island in 1799 and was completed and lighted in 1801. Located at the entrance to Winyah Bay, the entrance to Georgetown, it became known as the Georgetown Light.

MILITARY:

In 1861 the lighthouse was used by Confederate forces as an observation post to monitor the movement of Union ships. In May, 1862, the lighthouse was taken by a Union landing party.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holland, Francis Ross, Jr. America's Lighthouses, Their Illustrated History Since 1716. Brattleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Greene Press, 1972.  
 Mills, Robert. America's Light-House Guide. Washington, D.C.: William M. Morrison, 1854.  
News and Courier. Charleston, S.C. December 26, 1957, Page 1-B.  
 Rogers, George C. The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina. Columbia S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1970.  
 Stevenson, D. Alan, The World's Lighthouses Before 1820. London: Oxford University Press, 1959.  
South Carolina Statutes, Vol. V, pp. 225, 309.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

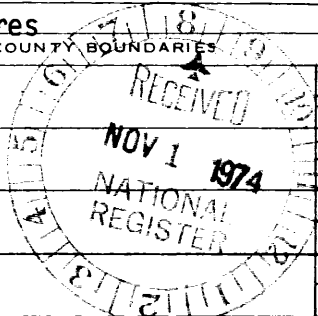
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | 33 13 20  | 79 11 07                |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |

17/661120  
2677200  
C

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 4 acres

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: Katherine Kelly, Waccamaw Regional Planning and Development Council

ORGANIZATION: John Califf, III, Historic Preservation DATE: August 28, 1974

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

**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: Charles E. Lee

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 5, 1974

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/30/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 27 1974