

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0670383

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RECEIVED FEB 22 1978

DATE ENTERED

APR 15 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Brookgreen Gardens

AND/OR COMMON

Brookgreen Gardens

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 18 miles northeast of Georgetown on
U.S. Highway 17 on the left side of the road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

South Carolina

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Carolina

045

Georgetown

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☒ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☒ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☒ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: Gardens

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Brookgreen Gardens, A Society for Southeastern Flora and Fauna

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Gurdon L. Tarbox

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Murrell's Inlet

VICINITY OF

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Georgetown County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Screven Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Georgetown

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brookgreen Gardens, a Society for Southeastern Flora and Fauna, is a museum dedicated to the exhibition of American sculpture and to the preservation and study of the flora and fauna of the southeastern United States. The nominated portion of the Gardens covers c.1600 acres and is located between U.S. Highway 17 and the Waccamaw River in Georgetown County, approximately one mile from the Atlantic Ocean. The property is covered with a variety of mixed hardwoods, pines, semitropical plants, marshes and developed gardens. It includes three 18th and 19th Century plantation sites, old plantation rice fields, a sculpture garden area and an entrance corridor complete with sculpture.

The pathways of the gardens are lined with hedges and shrubs or trees native to the Southern coastal region, and there is a great variety of flowering plants and trees as well as evergreens in the gardens. Some of the plants are laid out in formal plots, while others are allowed to flourish in an informal setting. Tall, moss-covered oaks line many of the paths and avenues.

In the sculpture gardens, at the extreme west-central end of the developed area, are large statues in the American classical tradition. Many of these sculptures were executed by Anna Hyatt Huntington, who helped develop the gardens. Some of the statuary is in a formal setting, with stone pedestals and hedged or walled enclosures, while other statuary is set in the shadows of the trees.

The sculpture gardens feature an arched brick loggia with an enclosed pool. This loggia contains the Museum of Small Statuary, housing a large portion of the 390 pieces of sculpture in the gardens.

At the northwestern corner of the property, along the Waccamaw River, are the ruins of Laurel Hill Plantation, probably built by Plowden Weston in the mid-nineteenth century. In this vicinity there are many brick and tabby ruins, a two-gun emplacement overlooking a bend in the river, and a 50 foot high freestanding chimney.

The portion of the property that is now a sculpture garden was formerly Brookgreen Plantation, built by William Allston in the mid-eighteenth century. The central avenue of the gardens, Live Oak Avenue, was probably the same avenue that led to the plantation house. It is lined with old oak trees planted in rows, probably in the eighteenth century. None of the original plantation buildings remain, but the Brookgreen Plantation house site is south of the loggia in the sculpture gardens.

The property includes a third plantation site in addition to Brookgreen and Laurel Hill. The Oaks was the plantation built by the branch of the Allston family spelling the name Alston, with only one "l". Nothing above ground remains of the house, but the cemetery remains, containing a memorial marker indicating the grave of Governor Joseph Alston and his son Aaron Burr Alston, and also commemorating his wife, Theodosia Burr Alston who was lost at sea.

The Alston cemetery, located on the edge of the woods, is enclosed by a brick wall and has raised tombstones. The cemetery and plantation sites of the Oaks are at the extreme southwestern end of the developed area of the gardens, along the Oaks Creek.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Approximately 1760 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Visited by thousands of tourists each year, Brookgreen Gardens is known today as a botanical and sculpture garden. Dedicated to the preservation of natural life and sculpture as museum and garden, the gardens are open to the public throughout the year.

The Brookgreen Gardens property was part of an early rice plantation system that developed on the banks of the Waccamaw River in the eighteenth century; William Allston (1738-1781) developed the land into a plantation ca. 1760. He was the father of Washington Allston, born here in 1779, the well-known American artist. Joseph Alston, buried here, was Governor of South Carolina from 1812 to 1814 and was drawn into the southwestern conspiracy of Aaron Burr, his close friend. Robert F. W. Allston, born here in 1801, was Governor of South Carolina from 1856 to 1858. He was a noted agricultural engineer.

Other significant persons associated with the plantations on the Brookgreen property include Joshua Ward, a noted agriculturalist who developed large-grain rice, and Julia Peterkin, a frequent visitor to the plantation and author of the Pulitzer Prize winning Scarlet Sister Mary. In addition, Brookgreen Gardens' founders, Archer Milton Huntington and Anna Hyatt Huntington, were important figures in the development of American arts.

AGRICULTURE: Governor Robert F.W. Allston, who graduated from West Point in 1821, applied his training in civil engineering to the cultivation of rice on the Waccamaw River plantations. He wrote two treatises on agricultural engineering: "A Memoir on the Introduction and Planting of Rice in S.C." (1843), and "An Essay on the Sea Coast Crops" (1854).

Joshua John Ward, born at Brookgreen in 1800, acquired all or part of the Brookgreen acreage by 1825 and was one of the largest slave-holders and rice planters in the state. He was active in the Winyah and All Saints Agricultural Society, which awarded him a prize in 1849 for his development of long-grain rice. Ward was elected Lieutenant Governor of the state from 1850 to 1852.

ART: William Allston's son, Washington Allston, was born here in 1779. In addition to being an internationally noted painter, he was also a writer.

Washington Allston attended Harvard College, but became interested in the study of art; after graduating, he traveled to London and studied under Benjamin West. In 1805 he traveled to Rome and came to know Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Washington Irving. During the War of 1812 he lived in England as an American citizen, and in 1818 returned to America to live in Boston. He died in 1843 at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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(cont'd)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1600 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 677460 3713720
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 17 673120 3708680

B 17 678860 3708900
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 17 678860 3708900

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at U.S. Highway 17, the nominated area extends down the length of Brookgreen Drive including 500 feet on each side of the Drive; thence around Alston Circle Drive including the area within the circle and 100 feet along the outer boundary of Alston Circle Drive; thence following the lines of those areas zoned by the 1974 Brookgreen Gardens Land Use Plan as the Sculpture Garden area, the two Historic Preservation areas.

(cont'd)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE (Kathy Kelly - Waccamaw Regional Planning and Development Council)
John Califf, Julie Burr

ORGANIZATION

S.C. Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

DATE

February 4, 1978

TELEPHONE

803/758-5816

STATE

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/14/78

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: William C. Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/15/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-13-78

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Those areas of the property which border the Waccamaw River were once covered with cypress forest. Cleared during the eighteenth century, they became the rice land that was the core of the plantation's economic life. Today they are being preserved as marshlands.

Master plans for the future development of Brookgreen Gardens indicate that no significant alterations will be made to the areas nominated to the National Register.

SURROUNDINGS: Brookgreen Gardens consist of approximately 4500 acres of which approximately 1600 have been nominated. The areas which are not within the nominated property include a wildlife park, and natural science and conservation areas. Also not included within the nominated acreage is additional Brookgreen property, located across Highway 17, which is leased to the State of South Carolina as a park.

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Allston's works included cartoons, caricatures, and portraits of his friends. He painted neo-classical historical and biblical works, as well as romantic landscapes and seascapes.

ENGINEERING: A brick chimney, standing alone, has been discovered on the extreme northern portion of the Brookgreen property along the Waccamaw River (near the site of Laurel Plantation). It was probably constructed in the mid-eighteenth century for an industrial and/or agricultural processing complex. The chimney--in cross section--is geometrically composed of two superimposed squares, which form an eight-pointed star, and rises over 50 feet from a circular brick base in the form of a truncated pyramid. Near the top of the chimney, the spaces between the points of the star have been filled in with circles of brick in increasing diameter, until the brick circles finally envelop the star. The flue balloons out in the shape of an inverted bell above the top circle. There are brick and tabby ruins, including the gun emplacements, near the chimney.

LITERATURE: After the War Between the States, the estate was sold to Dr. Louis C. Hasell. His brother-in-law and wife later sold the estate to Dr. J.A. Mood of Sumter, South Carolina. Dr. Mood's daughter, Julia Peterkin, wrote about the life of black people on southern plantations, using the locale of Brookgreen and the Gullah dialect found only in coastal South Carolina.

Some of Mrs. Peterkin's books are Green Thursday (1924), Black April (1927), and Scarlet Sister Mary (1928), which won the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1929.

MILITARY: A landing on the Waccamaw River, located on the extreme northern portion of the Brookgreen property, was used during the War Between the States as a transfer point for materials brought overland from Murrell's Inlet two miles away and destined for the Mars Bluff shipyard to the south of the rice plantations to the north. A site with two gun emplacements was found at this location. Laurel Hill Plantation, adjacent to the landing, was owned by Colonel Jordan, an ardent secessionist. The plantation was visited by Union gunboats in 1862, after they had passed the abandoned fortifications at Winyah Bay (Georgetown) and sailed up the Waccamaw River.

POLITICS: Within the Brookgreen Gardens' boundaries is the burial place of the Alston family. Son of William Alston, Joseph Alston was born in All Saints Parish (Georgetown County) in 1779. He was active in state politics and served as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1805 to 1809. He was elected Governor and served from 1812 to 1814. A close friend of Aaron Burr, he married Burr's daughter in 1801. In 1806 he became financially involved in Burr's ventures in the Southwest, but he denied involvement in any treasonable plot. He died in 1816.

Robert F.W. Allston was born here in 1801, the son of Benjamin Allston, Washington Allston's half-brother. An 1821 graduate of West Point, he retired his commission in 1822 to devote his energies to agriculture and engineering. He was elected Surveyor General of the state and was a member of the South Carolina General Assembly from 1828

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to 1850. A states-rights politician, Allston married Adele Petigru, the sister of James Louis Petigru, one of the state's most articulate Unionists during the nullification and secession controversies. He served as Governor from 1856 to 1858, devoting most of his energies to public works and school reform. He died in 1864.

SCULPTURE: Brookgreen was sold in January 1930 to Archer Milton Huntington, who with his wife, Anna Hyatt Huntington, developed Brookgreen Gardens as a garden and sculpture museum. Incorporated as an eleemosynary organization in 1931, Brookgreen Gardens has been called "the largest and most representative collection of American sculpture on exhibit anywhere in the world and the largest showing of sculpture in an outdoor setting in the United States."¹ Although the Gardens were originally envisioned as a showplace for Mrs. Huntington's sculpture, the Huntingtons quickly broadened their plans to include representative pieces of American sculpture from the 19th and 20th centuries. The Gardens currently include some 390 pieces of sculpture by 180 different artists. These include works by such figures as John Quincy Adams Ward, Augustus St. Gaudens, Louis St. Gaudens, Frederick William MacMonnies, Daniel Chester French, George Grey Barnard, Frederick Remington, Henry Clews, Jr., Malvina Hoffman, and Katherine Lane Weems.

However, the name most intimately associated with Brookgreen Gardens continues to be that of Anna Hyatt Huntington, its co-founder. Mrs. Huntington, a premier American sculptress, was born Anna Vaughn Hyatt in 1876. Her first one-man show was held when she was 24 years old. A prolific artist, she was especially noted for her powerfully classic animal and equestrian sculpture. Approximately 200 American museums contain her work, including the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Examples of her work are also found in France, Spain and South America.

Mrs. Huntington was an honorary fellow of the National Sculpture Society, a member of the National Association of Women Artists, the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Academy of Design.

Widely recognized in her field, she received many prizes including the Saltus Medal, the Spanish Gold Cross of Alfonso XII and the French Legion of Honor. At Brookgreen, representative examples of Anna Hyatt Huntington's many sculptures include Diana and the Chase (1922), Jaguar Eating and In Memory of a Workhorse. Mrs. Huntington also designed various entrance and garden gates for Brookgreen.

(continued)

¹"Brookgreen Gardens, America's Largest Outdoor Museum of Sculpture," National Sculpture Review, 12, No. 2 (Summer 1963), p. 18.

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: Brookgreen Gardens lies between the Waccamaw River and U.S. Highway 17, in a forest of mixed hardwoods, pines, and semitropical plants. Designed to preserve the indigenous flora and fauna of the southeast, the Gardens contain close to 1,000 different species and variations of plants. Especially notable among these species are certain rare hollies of the cassia group.

The sculpture garden area was designed by Anna Hyatt Huntington without the aid of a landscape architect. In designing the gardens, Mrs. Huntington used the existing environment to a great extent. The avenue of oaks from the 18th century forms the central axis of the gardens, and the center of the gardens contains remnants of an 18th century garden in the form of some remaining boxwood trees. As the first step in the development of the gardens, Archer Huntington constructed a serpentine open-work brick wall to define the limits of the garden area. Mrs. Huntington then designed a series of pathways in the form of a butterfly with outspread wings. All of these pathways wind around the central space that was the site of the Brookgreen plantation house.

The Huntingtons also designed an unusual water system which was based on the water systems of Spanish Arabs. The central fountain pool, over the original house site in the center of the gardens, is the center of an irrigation system for 14 other pools in the main gardens and a pool in the Palmetto Gardens. When the pumps run, river water from nearby canals flows over the front of the pool (2 to 3 feet deep), where it reaches the other pools by gravity in lead lined troughs.

Envisioning the Gardens as a symbiotic blend of nature and art, the Huntingtons designed the landscape architecture especially as a setting for outdoor sculpture.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN: Archer Milton Huntington (1870-1955) was a poet, scholar, philanthropist and patron of the arts. Independently wealthy and unusually generous, he has been called the greatest benefactor in the history of American sculpture.² Huntington made important contributions to at least 37 national cultural institutions, including the American Geographical Society, the American Institute of Arts and Letters and the National Academy of Design. Named Director of the American Academy of the Arts in 1922, Huntington consistently fostered the growth of American cultural institutions and encouraged emerging American artists.

We feel that the fifty year requirement for National Register status should be waived for Brookgreen Gardens for the following reasons:

1. Brookgreen Gardens is one of the most representative collections of American sculpture in existence.

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²"Archer Milton Huntington: A Great Benefactor in Sculpture and the Other Arts," National Sculpture Review, 12, (Summer 1973): 4-5.

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2. Brookgreen Gardens is considered to be the largest outdoor museum of sculpture in the United States.
3. The establishment of Brookgreen Gardens in 1931 was an unusually farsighted attempt to blend the preservation of flora and fauna with a presentation of sculpture.
4. Brookgreen Gardens' founders, Archer Milton Huntington and Anna Hyatt Huntington, were important figures in the development of American arts.

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The nominated property then includes that part of the area zoned Marshland Preservation on the east side of the Waccamaw River, its northern, southern and eastern boundaries being drawn on the 1974 Brookgreen Gardens Land Use Plan. The western boundary of this area extends from the northwest tip of Oaks Island running parallel to the western boundary of the western Historic Preservation area, to the southern boundary line of the Marshland Preservation area. The nominated area has been indicated on the enclosed copy of the 1974 Brookgreen Gardens Land Use Plan.