FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received OCT 6 1980
date entered NOV 25 198

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Murrells Inlet

and/or common Murrells Inlet Historic District

2. Location

street & number East of U.S. Highway 17 ___ not for publication

city, town Murrells Inlet ~~Community~~ ___ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state South Carolina code 045 county Georgetown code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
_X_ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	_x_ private	___ unoccupied	_X_ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	_x_ other: marshland and saltwater creek

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Georgetown County Courthouse

street & number Screven Street

city, town Georgetown state South Carolina 29440

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined elegible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1980 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	X moved date _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Murrells Inlet Historic District is a quiet resort community spreading along the edge of a saltwater creek and marsh in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. In spite of the commercial development which has characterized other parts of the area, this section has retained its special character of untouched marshland, antebellum estates, and resort cottages. Along the section of U.S. Highway 17 bypass which lies on the western boundary of the historic district, the proliferation of restaurants has taken place for the most part west of the highway.

The natural setting featuring trees draped with Spanish moss and the tranquil marsh with its wildlife remains much as it has since the nineteenth century. Numerous trees surround the houses, and the live oaks and cedars noted in a mid-nineteenth century description of the area are still common today. Since most of the buildings overlook the creek and marshland to the east, and since the creek and marshland provide the essential setting, a substantial amount of this area has been included in the potential historic district. Besides being crucial visually to the area, the marshland has played an integral part in the historical development of Murrells Inlet. Because of the natural setting two antebellum planters located their estates here, and later the surroundings drew twentieth-century vacationers who sought a relaxing retreat.

Residential in character, Murrells Inlet Historic District contains approximately nineteen houses. Although they exhibit some diversity, the prevalent use of wood as a building material, the large screened porches, and the setting of moss draped trees, marshland, and piers provide a visual unity.

Key properties contributing to the character of the historic district:

1. Sunnyside: one and one-half story beaded weatherboarded cottage built ca. 1850 by J. Motte Alston as a winter home for himself; three bay facade with central tetrastyle portico, four paneled pillars stand on four paneled pedestals to support pediment, tall tympanum pierced by central window with pedimented architrave, pedimented architrave motif repeated on central door and single windows flanking architrave, two central interior chimneys, central hallway leading to rear stairhall with oval mahogany staircase.

29. The Hermitage: one and one-half story weatherboarded Greek Revival cottage built ca. 1848 as a summer home for Dr. Allard Belin Flagg; five bay facade with central tetrastyle portico, solid wooden columns supporting a pediment, shingled tympanum with a central oculus, front door with multi-light transom and sidelights, two interior chimneys with hooded brick caps.

Other properties contributing to the character of the district:

3. Buxton: ca. 1925, two stories, frame with shiplap siding, one story screened porch on southwest elevation, frame outbuilding.

5. Tuck 'Em Inn: 1914, one story, frame, weatherboarded, porch across southeast and southwest elevations, property includes frame servants' house.

Continued

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	X literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	X social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in the community of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, the Murrells Inlet Historic District contains a significant concentration of buildings which visually reflect the transition of the area from the adjoining estates of two nineteenth-century rice planters into a twentieth-century resort community. In the mid-nineteenth century, homes were built here for two prominent Georgetown County rice planters, Jacob Motte Alston and Dr. Allard Belin Flagg. After the lands began to be subdivided in the early twentieth century, a small community of summer houses developed. In addition, several South Carolina writers have been associated with this section of Murrells Inlet. Today the historic district contains two antebellum houses, which are local interpretations of the Greek Revival style, as well as a collection of twentieth-century vernacular resort buildings.

Agriculture: The lands of Sunnyside and the Hermitage, near the rice plantations of Waccamaw Neck, were more agreeable settings for homes than the isolated, swampy rice plantations. The son of a leading rice planter of the neck, Jacob Motte Alston, who had been living at his rice plantation Woodbourne, decided between 1849 and 1858 to build his new house, Sunnyside, at Murrells Inlet "In order to render matters pleasanter." Since Woodbourne was only two miles away, Alston was able to ride out each day and tend to his rice fields. The Hermitage was built circa 1848-49 as a summer home for another prominent resident of Waccamaw Neck, Dr. Allard Belin Flagg. Dr. Flagg was the master of Wachesaw, a rice plantation in northern Georgetown District.

Social: This area of Murrells Inlet has been a distinct, pleasant environment for homes at least since Sunnyside and the Hermitage were built in the mid-nineteenth century. Beginning in the early days of the twentieth century, the plantation lands beside the marsh were divided into lots, and resort homes were built. By 1920 a small settlement along the marshland had developed on former lands of Sunnyside and the Hermitage. Today the historic district remains a peaceful resort area.

Although the pattern of land use has changed, certain natural aspects of life on the marshland have been enjoyed by residents for over 100 years. For example, Jacob Motte Alston wrote that, when he lived at Sunnyside, "the deep creek in front of the house [contributed] all the fish, oysters, clams, crabs, shrimp, etc." that the household needed. A description of Murrells Inlet written in 1941 reported, "The fishing is unusually good, and one has only to wade into the shallow water to pick up oysters, crabs, and clams. Today the piers extending into the saltwater creek and the clam diggers seen at low tide testify to the continuing value of the marshland to the community.

Literature: Several South Carolinians have found the quiet community on the marsh a good environment for writing. In the 1920s Julia Peterkin, a Pulitzer prizewinning author, found a retreat conducive to writing in a family home near Sunnyside. Clarke

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 585

Quadrangle name Brookgreen

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	635119	3716280
B	17	683783	3713762
C	17	682419	3714461
D	17	683220	3716230
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Murrells Inlet Historic District nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Murrells Inlet Historic District" and drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes those portions of the Murrells Inlet community and adjacent marshland which are considered to retain historic integrity.

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 Mary Watson, John Wells, Suzanne Pickens
Historical Programs Section

Ms. Mary S. Walker
Sunnyside, Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History

date

street & number 1430 Senate Street
Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station

telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia

state South Carolina 29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/25/80

For HCRS use only

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

for W. Ray Luce

date 11/25/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carol Dubie

date 11/25/80

~~Chief of Registration~~

GPO 938 835

1. Mrs. Mary S. Walker
Sunnyside
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

29. Mr. Clarke A. Willcox, Jr.
Mrs. Lillian R. Willcox
P.O. Box 196
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

3. Mr. Richard Edward Mancill III
P.O. Box 698
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

5. Mr. B. Pratt Gasque
Mr. J. O. Gasque, Jr.
Drawer 976
Marion, S.C. 29571

6. Mr. J. M. Carmichael
5040 Sunnyside Dr., S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24018

7. Mr. A. T. Heath, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Harvin Heath
P.O. Box 1150
Sumter, S.C. 29150

8. Ms. Olive Buxton Mancill
General Delivery
McClellanville, S.C. 29458

9. Mr. Joseph K. Fairey II
129 E. Bridge Street
St. Matthews, S.C. 29135

10. Mr. W. G. Nichols, Jr.
P.O. Box 116
Pawleys Island, S.C. 29585

11. Ms. Cameron M. Quantz
208 N. Kershaw Street
Timmonsville, S.C. 29161

13. Ms. Dorothy Prevost Bates
Mr. Jack S. Bates
P.O. Box 10144
Charleston, S.C. 29411

14. Estate of D. S. Nye
c/o Mr. David S. Nye, Jr., Exec.
213 Park Avenue
Conway, S.C. 29526

17. Ms. Willie May Foley
7 Haruy Avenue
Sumter, S.C. 29150

18. Ms. Nancy S. King
P.O. Box 316
Conway, S.C. 29526

19. Mr. Chafee Jones
118 Lawson Road
Darlington, S.C. 29532

21. Mr. A. McKoy Rose, Trustee
Ms. Lucille Rose Deal, Trustee
732 Cherokee Street
Marietta, GA 30060

22. Mr. A. McCoy Rose, Trustee
Ms. Lucille Rose Deal, Trustee
732 Cherokee Street
Marietta, GA 30060

23. Mr. William R. Johnston et al.
c/o R. E. L. Brown
313 Kings Highway
North Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29582

24. Ms. Dorothy H. Thames
911 Dogwood Drive
Marion, S.C. 29571

26. Mr. David Marion Michaux III
Route 1, Box 30
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

32. Marina Colony, Inc.
c/o Rollins and Hagan Insurance Agency
Johnsonville, S.C. 29555

35. Luther H. Smith, Inc.
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

36. Luther H. Smith, Inc.
Box 152
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

40. Mr. John J. O'Neill
Ms. Barbara E. O'Neill
97-33 80th Street
Ozone Park, NY 11416

41. Mr. A. McCoy Rose, Trustee
Ms. Lucille Rose Deal, Trustee
732 Cherokee Street
Marietta, GA 30060

42. Ms. Miriam S. Dozier
1204 Main
Conway, S.C. 29526

43. Ms. Nancy S. King
P.O. Box 316
Conway, S.C. 29526

44. Ms. Catherine S. Harper
Mr. William Earle Smith
c/o Mr. M. H. Smith
P.O. Box 1948
Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577

46. Mr. Clarke A. Willcox, Jr.
Mrs. Lillian R. Willcox
P.O. Box 196
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

47. Luther H. Smith, Inc.
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

48. Mr. D. B. Pendergrass
Box 235
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

49. State of South Carolina
(The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
Chairman, Budget & Control Board
P.O. Box 11450
Columbia, S.C. 29211)

2. Mr. James Rembert Mayes III
Ms. Terri Price Mayes
P.O. Box 1346
Sumter, S.C. 29150

4. Mr. Robert L. Bailes
Ms. Evelyn G. Bailes
P.O. Box 845
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

12. William George Peterkin III
Route 1
Fort Motte, S.C. 29050

15. Pendar Land Holding Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 407
Conway, S.C. 29526

16. Mrs. Julia Crosland Krell
Route 1, Box 261
Eastover, S.C. 29044

20. Ms. Rosa T. Lawton
Coastal Federal Savings and Loan
P.O. Box 2067
Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577

25. Ms. Hattie Costa King
Route 1
Johnsonville, S.C. 29555

27. Dr. B. D. Caughman
1651 Shady Lane
Columbia, S.C. 29206

28. Mr. Henry Scarborough Todd
Ms. Peggy Gurganus Todd
Mount Gillead Road
Lot B
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

30. Mr. Clarke A. Willcox, Jr.
Mrs. Lillian R. Willcox
P.O. Box 196
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

31. Ms. Anna W. Falkenberg
6533 Pencade Lane
Charlotte, N.C. 28215

33. Ms. Harriett H. Michaux
P.O. Box 103
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

34. Mr. J. W. King
Route 1
Johnsonville, S.C. 29555

37. Ms. Sadie L. Martin McLaughlin
Box 17624
Oliver Avenue
Lake Melton, OH 44429

38. Ms. Sadie L. Martin McLaughlin
Box 17624
Oliver Avenue
Lake Melton, OH 44429

39. Mr. John J. O'Neill
Ms. Barbara E. O'Neill
97-33 80th Street
Ozone Park, NY 11416

45. Luther H. Smith, Inc.
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

6. Willouise: ca. 1915, one story, frame with asbestos siding, porch across southeast and southwest elevations, batten shutters, frame outbuilding.

7. Sea Pines: ca. 1915, one story, frame with shiplap siding, screened porch on southwest elevation, ribbon windows across southeast elevation, concrete block outbuilding.

8. Landscaped lot with greenhouse.

9. Fairey House: ca. 1945, one story, frame with shiplap siding, porch on southeast and southwest elevations, property includes frame servants' house.

10. Curlew Point: ca. 1940, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, one story porch across southeast and southwest elevations, two dormers in front (southeast) slope of roof, frame outbuilding.

11. Quantz House: ca. 1925, one and one-half stories, frame with shiplap siding, porch across southeast and southwest elevations, oversized dormer in front (southeast) slope of roof, property includes frame servants' house and outbuilding.

13. Bates House: ca. 1900, one and one-half stories, frame with board and batten siding, high pitched, wood shingled hip roof with dormer gable, porch on southeast, northeast, and southwest elevations, batten shutters.

14. Nyoka: ca. 1900, one and one-half stories, frame with wood shingles, porch across southeast elevation, recessed porch in front (southeast) slope of roof, frame outbuilding.

17. Liberty Lodge: ca. 1920, one story, frame,weatherboarded, roof extends to cover porch on southeast, northeast, and southwest elevations, dormers on three slopes of roof, batten shutters.

18. Vacant lot.

19. Jones House: ca. 1930, one story, frame, weatherboarded, ribbon windows.

21. The Roses: ca. 1915, one and one-half stories, frame with shiplap siding, screened one story porch across southeast elevation, three dormers in front (southeast) slope of roof.

22. Vacant lot.

23. The House Without a Name: ca. 1915, one story, frame with shiplap siding, roof extends to cover porch on southeast elevation, dormer with ribbon windows, batten shutters.

24. Hunterest: ca. 1920, one and one-half stories, frame with shiplap siding, one story screened porch on southeast elevation.

Continued

26. 'Chaux Place: ca. 1925, two story with one story extension on southeast elevation, frame with shiplap siding, remodeled.

32. Vacant lot.

35. Vacant lot.

36. Vacant lot.

40. Vacant lot.

41. Rose House: ca. 1940, two stories, frame with shiplap siding, two story screened porch on southeast elevation.

42. Vacant lot.

43. N. S. King House: ca. 1925, one story frame weatherboarded bungalow.

44. Vacant lot.

46. Marshland and saltwater creek.

47. Marshland and saltwater creek.

48. Marshland and saltwater creek.

49. Marshland and saltwater creek.

Noncontributing properties:

2. Mayes House: contemporary, one story, frame with shiplap siding, screened porch.

4. Bailes House: ca. 1940, one story, brick, screened porch at northeast and southeast corners, property includes brick outbuilding and contemporary garage apartment.

12. Peterkin House: ca. 1955, one story, frame covered with weatherboard, roof extends to cover porch across facade, property includes contemporary frame garage apartment.

15. Mobile home.

16. Shady Oaks: contemporary, one and one-half story, frame, brick veneer, two small outbuildings.

20. Lawton House: ca. 1940, two stories on rear, one story on front, stuccoed, picture windows.

25. H. C. King House: contemporary frame raised beach cottage with asbestos siding.

Continued

27. Caughman House: contemporary, one story, frame, asbestos siding, screened porch on southeast elevation, property includes outbuilding.

28. Todd House, ca. 1950, one story, frame with shiplap siding, porch on southeast elevation, property includes outbuilding.

30. Hermitage Nursery: one story frame building and Quonset hut.

31. Captain Worrell: ca. 1950, one story, frame with shiplap siding.

33. H. H. Michaux House: contemporary, one story, frame, porch across southeast elevation.

34. J. W. King House: contemporary, one story frame cottage with screened porch on southeast elevation.

37. Vacant lot: fenced lot, includes outbuilding.

38. McLaughlin House: contemporary, one story, frame, brick veneer.

39. O'Neill House: contemporary, one story, concrete block.

45. Smith's Landing: remodeled older building, restaurant and bait and tackle shop.

Willcox, the present resident of the Hermitage, has compiled a collection of poetry and historical sketches of the region which have been published in Musings of a Hermit. Another South Carolina writer, Jacob Motte Alston, was associated with the area. His reminiscences, which include several descriptions of life at Sunnyside before the Civil War, have been published in the volume Rice Planter and Sportsman.

Architecture: The architecture of this section of Murrells Inlet reflects the changing lifestyles of the inhabitants of the area as well as the evolution of architectural design. The two antebellum houses with their pedimented proticos are notable local interpretations of the Greek Revival style. In addition, they have remained basically unaltered since the nineteenth century. The later resort houses are practical vernacular buildings well adapted to the more casual twentieth-century life on the marshland. For example, the large screened porches found on most of these houses have allowed the inhabitants to take full advantage of ocean breezes.

Childs, Arney R., ed. Rice Planter and Sportsman: The Recollections of J. Motte Alston, 1821-1909. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1953, pp. 123-125.

Heyward, Jimmy. Fairey House, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Interview, 16 July 1980.

Johnson, Jinks. Quantz House, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Interview, 16 July 1980.

Lachicotte, Alberta Morel. Georgetown Rice Plantations. Columbia, SC: State Commercial Printing Company, 1955, pp. 64, 65.

Rogers, George C., Jr. The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1970, pp. 253, 256, 508, 509.

Smith, Henry A. M. "The Baronies of South Carolina." South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine 14 (April 1913): 61-80.

Spell, Sarah C. "Alice Is the Unseen Hostess at the Hermitage." Sandlapper 4 (February 1971): 32-34.

Walker, Mrs. Mary. Sunnyside, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Interviews, 29 January and 16 July 1980.

Willcox, Clarke A. Musings of a Hermit. Charleston, SC: Walker, Evans, and Cogswell Company, 1968.

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of South Carolina. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941, p. 275.