

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Richmond Hill Plantation Archaeological Sites  
other names/site number 38GE256, 38GE262, 38GE266, 38GE283, 38GE306

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication  
city, town Murrell's Inlet  vicinity  
state South Carolina code 045 county Georgetown code 043 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<u>2</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u> Total
			objects

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Georgetown County Rice Culture, c. 1750-c. 1910

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*for* George L. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History  
Signature of certifying official Mary Watson Edmonds Date 8/11/88  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

John J. Knevel 10/6/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence; Processing  
Agriculture/Subsistence; Agricultural  
fields  
Domestic/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

N/A  
N/A  
N/A

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A  
walls N/A  
roof N/A  
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Archaeological investigations at Richmond Hill Plantation have identified remains of the planter's house, two possible overseers' houses, slave houses, a slave cemetery, a rice barn, and rice fields and dikes (Michie 1987). Extant sites are the plantation house, 38GE266; two overseers' houses, 38GE262 and 38GE256; approximately 20 slave houses, 38GE306, and ricefields and flood canals, 38GE283. As a unit these sites are significant since they comprise the Richmond Hill Plantation complex.

### Richmond Hill Plantation House (38GE266)

Presently, this house site is characterized by chimney and foundation footings exposed and preserved in-place as a result of archaeological investigations (Michie 1987). The structural remains document that the house was situated

No historical documents have been discovered which describe the planter's house, thus all information has been obtained through archaeological data recovered from ninety-seven 3x3 ft excavation units. These investigations provide data relative to the size of the house, primary construction materials, period of occupation, and status of occupants. Structural remains consist of two chimneys footings and several piers. The chimney and pier footings are constructed of coquina, brick fragments, and water-smoothed boulders (ship's ballast) bound by shell mortar. The brick foundation footings indicate the dimensions of the house were 28 ft x 32 ft.

Artifacts affiliated with the Architecture Group (South 1977) includes large quantities of wrought and machine cut nails, window glass, pintles, strap hinges, and a shutter dog which indicate that the house was of frame construction with shuttered windows. Diagnostic ceramic artifacts recovered from the site include quantities of porcelain, creamware, pearlware, and whiteware indicative of a high status planter's residence. The mean ceramic date, based on 1,528 ceramic

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Archaeology/Historic-Non-aboriginal

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

c. 1820 - c. 1874

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Black Slavery

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Although varying levels of archaeological investigations ranging from data recovery to testing have been conducted at 38GE266, 38GE262, 38GE256, and 38GE306 (Michie 1987), all sites retain high levels of integrity within the unexcavated as well as excavated areas. At 38GE266, for example, the chimney and pier footing remain in situ. The research conducted at these sites has demonstrated the density, clarity, and diversity of archaeological deposits and features at each site. Interpretations of nineteenth century rice plantation lifeways and patterns of behavior may be derived from the analyses of the variety of cultural materials represented at the sites.

Richmond Hill was one of several rice plantations on the Waccamaw River and was one of the few which did not produce either the quantity or quality of rice expected of a plantation in All Saints' Parish. It was owned by Dr. John D. Magill, who had the unenviable reputation of being one of the least efficient planters in the area and of being the most brutal slaveowner among the Georgetown District rice planters. Richmond Hill was originally one of the plantations connected with the Allston/Alston families, and was acquired by Magill in 1825. He continued to plant rice there and at Oregon, also on the Waccamaw but in Horry County, until his death in 1864. Magill produced 540,000 pounds of rice with 116 slaves at Richmond Hill in 1850 and produced 450,000 pounds with 189 slaves there in 1860, average yields for rice plantations in the district but well below the average for those along the Waccamaw. In 1860, for example, Richmond Hill yielded only 2,380 pounds of rice per slave and 708 pounds per acre in an area where the average was 3,765 pounds per slave and 1,568 pounds per acre. The major reason for this relatively poor showing was Magill's cruelty to his slaves. Ex-slaves, recalling their treatment some seventy years later, commented that Magill not only fed and clothed them poorly but that punishments were both frequent and vicious. Slaves often stole rice during the harvest and hid it for safekeeping. They ran away from Richmond Hill often

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

S.C. Department of Archives & History  
Columbia, SC

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

A \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dr. Patricia A. Cridlebaugh, Staff Archaeologist; J. Tracy Power, NR Historian

organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date 15 September 1987

street & number P.O. Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8608

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sherds, is 1838. A variety of other artifacts such as buttons, scissors, kaoline pipes, lead shot, and percussion caps have been recovered from the site.

Overseer/Driver's House (38GE262)

The overseer/driver's house (38GE262) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Diagnostic artifacts indicate this house was probably constructed and occupied about 1857 by individuals of a somewhat lower status than that of a planter. Although higher status ceramics such as pearlware were recovered from excavations (Michie 1987) at the site, these are of a limited quantity and more utilitarian lower status ceramics predominate.

Based on brick foundation footings, the dimensions of the structure are 34 x 16 ft, somewhat smaller than the planter's house. A limited quantity of window glass fragments and numerous wrought and machine-cut nails corroborate historic documentation that the house was of frame construction.

Overseer's House (38GE256)

[REDACTED]. Archaeological investigations (Michie 1987) at 38GE256 recovered limited architectural remains. These include a partial chimney foundation, wrought headed machine-cut nails, early machine-cut nails, spikes, flat-head wood screws, a partial door lock, and window glass. Other than the chimney foundation, no architectural features have been identified.

Diagnostic ceramics form the basis for the hypothesized function of the structure as an overseer's house. The low frequency of transfer printed wares compared to undecorated, banded, and edged refined earthenwares conforms to predicted overseer status patterns (Michie 1987). Specific ceramic types recovered from the site include limited quantities of porcelain, creamware, pearlware, and Colonoware. Whitewares and stonewares predominate. The mean ceramic date, derived from 2,298 diagnostic sherds, is 1856. Other types of artifacts recovered from the site include buttons, hooks and eyes, kaoline pipe fragments, lead shot, percussion caps, gun flints, and faunal remains of a variety of domesticated and wild animals.

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### Slave Houses/Rows (38GE306)

Systematic archaeological testing has produced evidence that two rows of twelve cabins each comprised the slave/Negro settlement at Richmond Hill Plantation. This settlement (38GE306) is located approximately

[REDACTED] Deposits of mortar, representative of chimneys, are distributed at approximate distances of 65 ft to 75 ft from deposit. No other definitive architectural features have been identified and it is probable the buildings were of frame construction resting on wooden piers. Other artifacts within the architectural group included machine-cut nails and small quantities of brick. Ceramics characteristic of lower status slave quarters include Colonoware, annular ware, and whiteware.

### Other Properties/Current Functions

#### The black cemetery (38GE254)

[REDACTED] Graves marked with gravestones/markers as well as depressions probably date from the antebellum period to the twentieth century. Surface grave goods include flower pots, styrofoam wreaths, artificial flowers, and shrubs. Although archaeological testing has not been conducted at the site, the proximity of the cemetery to the Richmond Hill plantation complex and the unmarked depressions suggest that this cemetery was originally the plantation slave cemetery. This cemetery is a non-contributing element in the Richmond Hill plantation complex. The archaeological site which contains the ruins of a rice barn is a non-contributing property as it has been subject to intensive data recovery and very little of it is extant.

The current function of these sites at Richmond Hill is as an

[REDACTED] sites of the plantation house, overseer's house, slave settlement, avenue of oaks, cemetery, and some of the canals and ricefields will be preserved in place with interpretative signage.

In addition to the occurrence of these ceramic and architectural artifacts, faunal remains are also affiliated with this site. The potential of 38GE306 to yield significant data is further evidenced by the presence of midden deposits and features in addition to the mortar deposits.

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enough for Magill to advertise for their return in local newspapers. If caught, their discipline was harsh and often fatal. Ex-slaves remembered that Magill shot or hanged captured runaways; in one instance he was said to have tied four horses to the offender's arms and legs and torn him apart. When Federal gunboats steamed up the Waccamaw River in 1862, twenty-eight slaves escaped and told their deliverers that Magill was a cruel master. One of the few kindnesses shown Magill's slaves was the effort by his wife Mary to teach them how to read the Bible. When Magill died in 1864 he left Richmond Hill to his son John, Jr., who filed for bankruptcy and sold the plantation only five years later. Although his brother William bought Richmond Hill back and attempted to plant there he only held it for two years, selling it in 1874. It is unknown whether rice was planted there after that date. The plantation house, overseers' houses, and slave houses were all burned by c. 1930.

Individually and as a unit, the archaeological sites represent the remains of a working nineteenth century rice plantation complex. As such, the Richmond Hill Plantation complex encapsulates archaeological data from which discrete patterns of status may be derived through comparisons of the higher status planter's residence, the lower status overseer's house, and the low status slaves quarters. This complex also has the potential to provide substantive information relative to the physical plantation plan. For example, the distribution of the plantation house, dependencies, and rice fields across the landscape should reflect the nineteenth century planter's ideas regarding social order.(1)

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NOTES

(1) George C. Rogers, Jr., The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1970), p. 289; Agricultural and Slave Schedules, Seventh Census of the United States (1850), Georgetown County; Agricultural and Slave Schedules, Eighth Census of the United States (1860), Georgetown County; Charles Joyner, Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community (Urbana and Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984), pp. 19, 20, 26-28, 91-92, 97, 104, 216; James Michie, "Richmond Hill and Wachesaw: An Archaeological Study of Two Rice Plantations on Waccamaw River, Georgetown County, South Carolina," (Research Manuscript Series 203, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia, South Carolina, 1987), pp. iv-192.