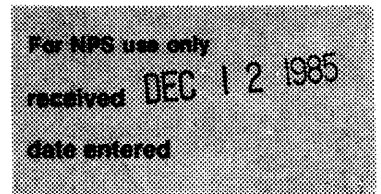


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

19

Item number 7

Page 11

Name: Historic: Tall Oaks Location: Highway 341
Common: S. McLendon House Classification: Building
Owner: Sherian McLendon
Route # 4, Box 247
Bishopville, S.C. 29010

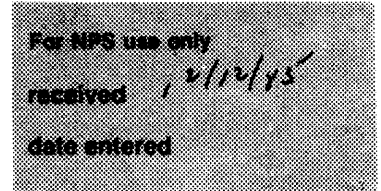
Representation in Existing Surveys: South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1981.

Description: Tall Oaks was built ca. 1847 and is a two-story vernacular Greek Revival residence. The house has a hipped roof and rests on a brick foundation. It originally featured two interior brick chimneys; however, one has been recently removed above the roof level. On the main (east) facade is a two-story, gable-roofed pedimented portico with four large columns. These columns are of brick construction with a stucco finish and Doric motif capitals. On both stories are frame porches with rectangular railings and spindles. The second story porch has been enclosed with screening in recent years. The house has a sheathing of weatherboard with the exception of the central three bays on the main facade which display rectangular panels. In the central bays of the main facade are double doors on both floors. These doors have flanking four-light sidelights and transoms. Windows on the main facade are triple-hung, six-light sash. These windows also have rectangular frame spandrel panels. Other windows throughout the house are nine-over-nine sash. At the rear of the house is a shed roof and hipped roof porch addition added ca. 1910. At the roofline of the rear (west) facade is a small gable dormer which, according to family tradition, was used by the owners to observe laborers in the adjacent fields. The interior of the house has not been significantly altered and retains its original woodwork, wainscoting, mantles and paneling. An original brick kitchen still stands behind the main house and is in excellent condition. This kitchen has a large corbelled brick chimney, water table and gable roof.

Significance: Tall Oaks is associated with a notable Bishopville family of the 19th and early 20th centuries and is a good example of the vernacular Greek Revival style. This house was built ca. 1847 by Dr. John Edward Dennis. Dennis was born in Virginia in 1802 and he moved to Bishopville in the 1820s. In 1829 he married Adeline Muldraw who was the daughter of Dr. J.J. Muldrow, an early settler of Bishopville (51). During the 1830s Dennis farmed a large area on the northern edge of the town. He was also active in local affairs serving as a trustee of Bishopville Academy in 1835. (52) Dennis was both a prosperous physician and farmer and in 1847 he constructed this large two-story, frame house which he named Tall Oaks for the many surrounding large oak trees. In

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 20

Item number 7

Page 12

the 1850 census Dennis was listed as owning an estate valued at \$15,000. Dennis had five young children during the 1850s and for several years they were tutored by Miss Lottie Moon, who was later to gain fame as a Baptist missionary in China. Dennis died in 1855 while returning from a business trip to New York. His son, Robert E. Dennis, also became a physician and ran the plantation along with his mother. In 1860 the value of the Dennis estate was listed at \$130,000 (53). Robert Dennis continued to live in the house and practiced medicine in Bishopville until his death in 1904. The house was then purchased by the Lane family who occupied the house until the early 1940s when it was bought by the McLendon family (54). Tall Oaks is a notable example of the vernacular Greek Revival style and its fine craftsmanship has not been significantly altered. The original brick kitchen is an excellent example of an unaltered 19th century plantation outbuilding.

Acreeage: Approximately 4.1 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary for Tall Oaks is shown as lot # 25 on accompanying Lee County Tax Map 30-01 which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'. The boundary includes all property historically associated with Tall Oaks.

UTM Reference Point: 17/568110/3787300 (Ashwood Quad)

Other Information: