NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Teasley, J.C., House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 131 East Wine Street not for publication
city or town Mullins vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Marion code 067 zip code 29574

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets __does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __statewide x locally. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 4/19/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __ meets __does not meet the National Register criteria. (__See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

✓ entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 5/30/01
__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):

Teasley, J.C., House
Name of Property

Marion County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

x private
_ public-local
_ public-State
_ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

x building(s)
_ district
_ site
_ structure
_ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Flue-Cured Tobacco Production in Dillon and Marion Counties

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC
Subcategory: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter caregories from instructions)

Category: VACANT/NOT IN USE
Subcategory:

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Mid-to-Late 19th Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Teasley, J.C., House
Name of Property

Marion County, South Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

__ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
__ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period,or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
__ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

__ a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
__ b removed from its original location.
__ c a birthplace or a grave.
__ d a cemetery.
__ e a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
__ f a commemorative property.
__ g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1894-1942

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Teasley, James Chesley

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # ____

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
__Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
__ Other

Name of repository:
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Teasley, J.C., House
Name of Property

Marion County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	660851	3786415	3			
2				4			

___See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane C. Hammond, with assistance from the SHPO staff
organization _____ date 22 February 2001
street & number 1841 Wilton Rd. telephone (216) 321-4979
city or town Cleveland Heights state Ohio zip code 44118-1628

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.
Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jane C. Hammond
street & number 1841 Wilton Rd. telephone (216) 321-4979
city or town Cleveland Heights state Ohio zip code 44118-1628

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

The J.C. Teasley House, located at 131 East Wine Street in Mullins, has architectural integrity to just after 1901 and consists of a ca. 1875 house which faced westerly and an early twentieth century [post 1901] southerly-oriented wing which when built became the principal façade of the house. This modest single-story frame house is constructed in a classic folk form quite common throughout the rural South. The house's plan presents a symmetrical, three-bay facade to the street. The gravel drive of O'Hara's Restaurant runs along the west side of the house and an extension of that property defines the northern border of the backyard; a thin line of trees separates the eastern boundary from the Martin Hospital property. The balloon frame rests on fired brick piers pointed with lime mortar. Sided in weatherboard, the primary roof is side-gabled with raking boxed cornices and returns; the secondary roof of the porch is hipped. A shed roof covered a kitchen addition and back porch before removal in 1999. The roofing material is asphalt shingle, now brittle and deteriorated in sections. Three brick chimneys rise from the house's roofline and are located as follows: 1) west gable end of post 1901 front section; 2) near intersection of front roof section and rear ell's roof ridge; and 3) a flue stack on north gable wall of rear ell.

The house is set close to the public street with a shallow front yard. On the south facade, pointed concrete blocks have replaced the original wood steps (1958). Concrete encases the piers and their voids are filled by concrete blocks. A short weatherboard panel is missing above the pier east of the porch.

A porch, slightly less than the full width of the house and supported by six square posts with rails and unturned pickets, extends the full height of the facade. The fascia is rotted near the steps; the tongue and groove flooring is deteriorated. Sections of older, flat board flooring remain at the porch's ends. Turned balusters were replaced by 2x2 posts (1983). The rail and posts on the east side have been removed. A section of the original rounded rail and ten balusters have survived beneath the porch.

The central, four-paneled front door is flanked by three sidelights inserted into a recessed, paneled surround with a rectangular line of five transom lights above. A modern storm door is attached to an applied surround. The flanking windows are double-hung, six-over-six light sash, having flat casings crowned with drip moulding. The hipped roof of the porch has a common, exposed rafter ceiling. The overhanging rafters are covered with a plain fascia.

The west gable end wall is dominated by a shouldered, brick chimney encased in concrete in 1958; it is flanked by windows with single, non-original shutters. A fifteen-foot crack in the chimney ascends from the base. The mortar of the piers has failed and bricks are detached. A plain fascia follows the rake of the gable and the extended eaves of the cornice brackets. On the western facade of the ell the floor framing and collapsing brick piers of the back porch and shed room kitchen remain as documents of former construction. Unpainted weatherboard and a hidden bay have been exposed on the kitchen wall; green-paint on the siding marks the width of the back porch. (These unstable

additions were removed in 1999 because of safety concerns.) The two doors on this facade are of vertical beaded board with horizontal interior battens. An electrical fuse box, relocated from the front porch (1972) hangs detached from the fascia. The fascia and weatherboard were damaged during removal of the additions. The drip moulds of the doors have been planed flat.

On the northern facade of the three-bay section is a central window and a four panel exterior door. The rotted lower casement of the window has been removed. Outlines of two previous roof elevations are visible on the wall. On the north gable elevation of the ell is a single window and narrow brick flue.

The east facade has one bedroom window with broken panes and a second centered under the gable. A cast iron venting pipe for the toilet is attached to the wall where the gable joins the ell.

INTERIOR

The E. Wine Street entrance to the Teasley House opens to a central hall flanked by living room and bedroom. The horizontally laid wallboards, floors, and ceiling in these rooms are constructed of pine. Upson board (composite cardboard wallcovering) and a wainscot rail have been applied in the hall and living room (1952). Original papers, including a well-preserved 19th century embossed paper frieze in the entry hall, have been uncovered in both rooms. All wood trim and doors are painted. Four-panel doors open to the living room and porch. The bedroom door is missing. A freestanding, hearth-style gas heater is connected to the north wall (1960s).

The living room has four windows. On the west wall, a brick-lined fireplace with deteriorating mortar is flanked by two windows. The simple mantel with pilasters is original. There is insect damage to the wallboard above the mantel. An occasional, dripping leak in the ceiling boards near the front window.

In the northwest corner of the bedroom, a narrow hallway to the ell has been converted to a closet (1972). A fireplace, cement-sealed before 1952, with simple surround and mantel is central to the north wall. At the northeast corner, a beaded board door with battens opens to a closet bathroom containing a freestanding porcelain toilet. On the east and south walls are single windows.

The bedrooms of the ell are presently accessible only from the west facade. Unpainted wood floors are exposed in both rooms. The wood trim and doors of both rooms are painted. The southern-most ell bedroom is clad in plywood paneling (1972). On the east wall is a single window. A brick fireplace with mantel and surround is central to the south wall. Entry to the front section has been covered with paneling (1972). On the west wall, north of the exterior door, are built-in bookshelves and an open closet. On the north wall an off-center, board-and-batten door leads to the rear bedroom. The walls of the rear bedroom are covered in Upson board and painted green (1950). A window is central

to the north wall and a freestanding gas heater vents to the external flue. An exterior door is on the west wall.

Plumbing, including the freestanding closet toilet, and electricity date to the early 1900s. All rooms, except the living room and bathroom, have functioning, single-bulb, pendant light fixtures . Each room has one electrical baseboard outlet, except the living room, which has two. Cold-water faucets, located on the porch and kitchen, were removed in 1999.

The J. C. Teasley House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with James Chesley Teasley (1861-1942), prominent Marion County businessman. Teasley played a pivotal role in the growth and development of the town of Mullins from a struggling late-nineteenth century railroad stop to an early twentieth century boom town with a tobacco market serving the entire Pee Dee region of South Carolina, by 1938 the largest tobacco market in the state. The house, Teasley's residence from 1901 until his death in 1942, is the extant historic resource most closely associated with his life and his role in the Pee Dee tobacco industry.

Although Mullins was established as a stop on the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad after that line was completed through the area in 1854, it boasted only a few stores and houses forty years later and its economy was based primarily on cotton, so that it was like many other rural railroad towns across the Southeast in the last decade of the nineteenth century, with a population of less than 300 in 1890.

Several factors changing all that came together during the first few years of the 1890s, however. The combination of a tremendous hurricane cutting a path from Charleston through the Pee Dee and a national economic depression, both in 1893, ensured disappointing cotton and tobacco crops that year and even more disappointing prices. Cotton prices dropped even lower in 1894 and remained so for the rest of the decade, convincing many more Pee Dee farmers—and merchants, too—to consider tobacco as an alternative cash crop. Flue-cured, or Bright Leaf, tobacco, a type particularly suited for cigarettes, was produced by a process discovered in North Carolina shortly before the Civil War but not technologically feasible or economically viable until the 1880s; though it had made some inroads into South Carolina in the 1880s and early 1890s it had not yet gained widespread acceptance.

According to a recent history of tobacco cultivation in South Carolina, "The fate of Mullins changed forever when William Henry Daniel, the town's leading merchant, threw his support behind Bright Leaf in 1893."[1] Daniel (1841-1915), building on the success of Dr. C.T. Ford, the Mullins physician who had experimented with a small patch of tobacco as early as 1892, planted eight acres himself in 1894. After that crop fetched an excellent price at the tobacco market in Danville, Virginia, then the leading tobacco market in the Southeast, "Buck" Daniel devoted a great deal of time and energy into promoting Bright Leaf and convincing Marion County farmers to grow it rather than cotton.

In 1894 or 1895 Daniel invited James Chesley Teasley, a North Carolina native experienced in tobacco cultivation in the eastern part of the state, to Mullins to serve as a "tobacco instructor" to the local farmers willing to try their hand at Bright Leaf. As one contemporary wrote years later, "no one

[1] Eldred E. Prince, Jr., with Robert R. Simpson, Long Green: The Rise and Fall of Tobacco in South Carolina (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1900), p. 59.

knew anything about tobacco culture or the method of handling it successfully, so a few citizens employed J.C. Teasley, an expert from North Carolina, to superintend the cultivation and marketing of the weed. This proved to be a wise investment."[2] Daniel led the way in building the Planters' Warehouse, which opened on 28 August 1895 as the first tobacco warehouse in Mullins and only the fifth in South Carolina.[3] Teasley, who became one of the first auctioneers at the Planters' Warehouse, was also one of the warehouse managers and had an independent tobacco grading business as well.

The tobacco boom in Mullins occurred almost overnight. Farmers who had lived on credit for years were able to pay merchants in cash, to the great delight of both, and the local economy grew exponentially, so much so that the the town's first two banks—the Bank of Mullins and the Merchants and Planters Bank—opened in 1899 and 1902, respectively.[4] The town itself grew as well, so that by 1901 its population had grown to more than 1000 residents. That same year W.W. Sellers could write of Mullins and its remarkable boom in his history of Marion County, "The Mullins region early saw its opportunity [with growing and marketing flue-cured or Bright Leaf tobacco], and embarked largely in its culture and production, and in that regard is far ahead of any section of the county. The consequence is that Mullins sells more tobacco than any other market in the State . . . and bids fair to become the Danville of South Carolina."[5]

In 1898, Teasley married Adeline Huggins (1870-1962); they had seven children. He also inscribed grave markers for local families and his hand can be found on many headstones, his own children included, at Center Church cemetery . In addition to his interests in the tobacco industry, he built a very popular millinery shop and ladies store of the day, established and operated by his wife Addie, just east of the house; it is no longer extant. Teasley remained active in Mullins until his death at home in 1942, and his career helped shaped a new generation of tobacco men, brought up in the business, from the planting of beds up to the sales floor, "giving employment to hundreds that were formerly unemployed." The Fortieth Anniversary Issue of the Mullins Enterprise claimed in 1937, "Mr. Teasley played no small part in introducing the new crop and getting others interested, and thus tobacco growing spread rapidly...Mr. Teasley not only taught the people how to grow and prepare tobacco for market, but was a popular auctioneer in those days and frequently sold the entire crop.

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[2] M.M. Byrd, "Reminiscences" Mullins Enterprise (Mullins, S.C.), 1897.
[3] The first tobacco warehouse in South Carolina opened in Florence in 1891, followed by a warehouse in Darlington which opened in 1892. By the summer of 1895, Florence and Darlington had opened an additional warehouse each, and the towns of Timmonsville, Mullins, and Sumter all opened tobacco warehouses in the same week: Timmonsville on 27 August; Mullins on 28 August; and Sumter on 29 August. Prince, pp. 61-63, 66-69.
[4] Prince, p. 74.
[5] W.W. Sellers, A History of Marion County, South Carolina, From Its Earliest Time to the Present, 1901 (Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1902), p. 555.

He was also associated as manager with one or more houses and made good in any capacity in with he served. It was through the splendid teamwork of W.H. Daniel . . . J.C. Teasley and others of those days that the market, now the largest in the State, was established."[6]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Mason, F.G., ed. Mullins, 1872-1972. Mullins, S.C.: T & S Printing Company, 1972.

Prince, Eldred E., Jr., with Robert R. Simpson. Long Green: The Rise and Fall of Tobacco in South Carolina. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000.

Sellers, W.W. A History of Marion County, South Carolina, From Its Earliest Time to the Present, 1901. Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1902.

[6] Fortieth Anniversary Issue, The Mullins Enterprise (Mullins, S.C.), 26 August 1937.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are shown as the black line marked "J.C. Teasley House" on the accompanying Marion County Tax Map 407, Parcel 3, Lot 11, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic house and its immediate setting.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Teasley, J.C. House
Location of Property:	131 East Wine Street Mullins, Marion County, S.C.
Name of Photographer:	Bradley R. Sauls
Date of Photographs:	21 February 2001
Location of Original Negatives:	S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia

1. Facade left oblique
2. Facade right oblique
3. Right elevation
4. Right elevation, porch detail
5. Facade, entrance detail
6. Left elevation, rear oblique
7. Right elevation, rear oblique
8. Rear elevation
9. Rear elevation
10. Mantel detail
11. Mantel detail and plaster walls
12. Mantel detail
13. Plank doors
14. Plank doors