

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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 Dillard Barn  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number 719 Virginia Drive not for publication  
city or town Mullins vicinity X  
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.)

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
- 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):

Dillard Barn  
Name of Property

Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		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 Marion and  
Dillon Counties Thematic Resources

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Subcategory: Processing

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Subcategory: Storage

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log Tobacco Barn

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Brick</u>
walls	<u>Log</u>
	<u>Weatherboard</u>
roof	<u>Metal</u>
	<u>Shingle</u>
other	

### Narrative Description

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

Dillard Barn  
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.
- ☐ 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)

Agriculture

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1894 – ca. 1955

### Significant Dates

ca. 1894-95, ca. 1955

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

N/A

### 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:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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

Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	662608	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 Charles McRae, w/ assistance from the SHPO staff  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 6, 2005  
street & number 2335 Old Stage Road telephone (843) 464-8012  
city or town Mullins state South Carolina zip code 29574

## 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 Leesa C. McRae  
street & number 2335 Old Stage Road telephone (843) 464-8012  
city or town Mullins state South Carolina zip code 29574

**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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Dillard Barn  
Name of Property  
Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

---

The Dillard Barn, on Virginia Drive in the Gapway community south of Mullins, in Marion County, South Carolina, was built ca. 1894-95. There have been no additions to the barn since its construction, and few alterations. The original wood shingles were replaced with a tin roof, and in the 1950s, as curing fuels and technologies evolved, the brick furnaces and original flues were removed and replaced with an oil burner.

The log barn is supported by a brick foundation with a dirt floor. It was constructed in a single pen plan, and the 6' to 8' logs used in the construction are saddle notched with a chinking of brick and clay. Weatherboards were placed between the logs on the exterior of the building. The gable ends of the barn are also weatherboard and are located on the building's east and west elevations. A small window is located on each of the gable ends; the windows were constructed from small wooden doors, which were hinged to open and close easily. These windows were used to ventilate the barn during the curing process, but they also served as a method of observation for the tobacco while the crop was being cured. Another function of the windows was to bring in night air after the tobacco was cured to ensure that the tobacco was brought into "order" so that it could be handled more efficiently and without damage. The unusually wide but short doors of the barn are located on the north and south sides, and are ledged [ie. made of vertical battens/planks with two horizontal braces/ledges]. Each door is 3'10" tall and 3'4" wide. The approximate height of the Dillard Barn is 21', and the exterior of the pen or crib is approximately 18' x 18'. The barn's sheds are highly pitched, wrap the building's entire perimeter, and are attached to the sides of the barn at the eave and gable. They feature peeled pole rafters, are stripped with 1' x 5' boards, and are covered with tin. Each shed is 9'6" in depth and increases the exterior size of the barn to 36' x 36'. The building with its sheds has the appearance of a gable-on-hip roofed structure. One remarkable feature of the barn is a sign, "Dillard and Sons," painted on the southeast corner of the barn beneath a shelf and within the sheds, presumably at the time of construction in 1894-95.

The interior of the structure is divided into four 4' wide sections, or "rooms", by rows of horizontal peeled poles called "tier poles." This barn is commonly known as a 16' barn or 16' x 16' because it has four 4' wide rooms. The bottom tier is approximately 5' from the floor of the barn, the tier poles are arranged in vertical intervals of 24", there are six tiers in each room, and the tier poles in this barn were fashioned from pine saplings. There are also two "false" tiers in the gable of the roof; false tiers are so named because they did not extend the full length of the barn and are made from farm-sawn lumber.

The Dillard Barn has some decay and deterioration caused by water damage. This water damage is located primarily on the south side of the building; however most of the barn is still in fair to good condition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Dillard Barn  
Name of Property  
Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

The Dillard Barn is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with the production of bright, or flue-cured, tobacco in Marion County, South Carolina, its connection with the development of Mullins as South Carolina's largest tobacco market at the turn of the twentieth century, and as an excellent and intact example of a log or pole tobacco barn. It is an increasingly rare type of agricultural historic resource and one that is rapidly disappearing from the landscape of the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. As historian Eldred E. Prince, Jr. has observed,

Tobacco curing barns have helped to define the Pee Dee landscape since the 1880s. Unlike the ventilated air-drying sheds used in the Burley regions like Kentucky, South Carolina's Bright Leaf tobacco was 'flue-cured' by artificial heat. Thus, curing barns were tightly constructed to maintain high temperatures during the four to five day curing process. A brick furnace circulated heat through a network of stove pipes ('flues') that ran parallel to and a few inches above the floor. Tobacco leaves were strung on wooden sticks and hung overhead on rows of tier poles. Early barns were generally sixteen feet high and twenty feet high with four 'rooms' of tier poles. . . . Typically, the outside walls were skirted by a shed roof that sheltered handing and stringing.<sup>1</sup>

The Dillard Barn, built ca. 1894-95 by John H. Dillard [1841-1924] and his sons A.E. and Daniel Dillard, was used for curing tobacco from its construction until 1981 when bulk tobacco barns were placed on the property. According to a recent history of tobacco cultivation in South Carolina, "By the spring of 1895, 'tobacco fever' was said to be sweeping the countryside around Mullins. . . . The most important event of the momentous 1895 season was the establishment of Mullins tobacco market. As the cotton depression deepened in 1894, more and more Marion County farmers turned to tobacco. From Dothan, Fork, Zion, and Gapway came reports of seedbeds sown and curing barns raised."<sup>2</sup>

Two men whose property adjoined J.H. Dillard's were pioneers in the Bright Leaf tobacco culture of Marion County—and the Pee Dee. Dr. C.T. Ford was the first farmer in Mullins to produce Bright Leaf or flue-cured tobacco in Mullins, and his property adjoined that of J.H. Dillard's son George to the west. Ford's experiments with tobacco began as early as 1892, and later broadened. His success enticed many native farmers to abandon cotton production and begin the production of flue-cured tobacco. B.G. Smith was described in a 1937 article of the *Mullins Enterprise* as being a "leading spirit" in the spread of tobacco culture through Mullins and its surrounding areas, and his

<sup>1</sup> Eldred E. Prince, Jr., "Tobacco Barns," *The South Carolina Encyclopedia* (Online Edition), [http://www.schumanities.org/encyclopedia/tobacco\\_barns.htm](http://www.schumanities.org/encyclopedia/tobacco_barns.htm), accessed 23 March 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Eldred E. Prince, Jr., with Robert R. Simpson, *Long Green: The Rise and Fall of Tobacco in South Carolina* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000), pp. 59, 67.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Dillard Barn  
Name of Property  
Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

---

property adjoined J.H. Dillard's to the north.<sup>3</sup> As many as 200 log pole tobacco barns similar to the Dillard Barn were built and put into operation in Mullins and vicinity by the end of 1895. This property's connections with C.T. Ford and B.G. Smith, as well as the "tobacco fever" sweeping Mullins and its outlying areas around 1895, are further evidence of its construction ca. 1894-95, in addition to its method of construction, which suggests an early date as well.

The Dillard Barn's architectural form within the rural, agricultural landscape that is the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, is distinctive with its highly pitched and low, overhanging surrounding sheds. The sheltering canopy gives the building an overall gable-on-hip form. Given the spindly quality of the shed's supporting posts, the barn's skirting canopy from a distance appears to be cantilevered. In fact, many tobacco barns of this and even later vintage had cantilevered sheds that provided unhindered and undirected movement around the barn's perimeter by stringers and handers, as well as by mule-drawn drays hauling tobacco leaves from the fields

The Dillard Barn was used for the purpose of curing bright leaf tobacco for approximately eighty-seven years, when in the late 1970s and early 1980s it and later type frame curing barns were supplanted by the bulk curing and processing system that revolutionized bright leaf tobacco farming in the Pee Dee region. For much of its period of active use, that is, until ca. 1955, the Dillard Barn contained a flue-curing system with brick fire box and metal pipes or flues. Workers controlled the amount of heat needed for curing by the size wood burning fire they built within the hearth. In the mid-1950s the barn's flue-curing system was replaced with an oil burning furnace. With that development, and in an effort to control even more accurately the degree of heat needed for curing, the old open hearths were in most cases closed or removed altogether. Although the system of curing tobacco in this type of barn changed over time, alterations as a result of those changes in the Dillard Barn were minor and the building retains a relatively high degree of physical integrity.

---

<sup>3</sup> Victor B. Stanley, Jr., "Mullins Started as a Railroad Depot, The Tobacco Market came in 1895", *The Mullins Enterprise*, 26 August 1937.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   8  

Dillard Barn  
Name of Property  
Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

---

Bibliography

*J.H. Dillard Property.* Map. Marion County: J.M. Johnson, C.E., 1914.

*Marion County Book of Deeds.* Book VV, p 346. 4 April 2005.

*Marion County Book of Deeds.* Book ZZ, p 90. 4 April 2005.

McMillan, Bartlene M. *The History of Mullins.* Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 2001.

Prince, Eldred E., Jr. "Tobacco Barns." *The South Carolina Encyclopedia* (Online Edition).  
[http://www.schumanities.org/encyclopedia/tobacco\\_barns.htm](http://www.schumanities.org/encyclopedia/tobacco_barns.htm). Accessed 23 March 2005.

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.

Stanley, Victor B., Jr. "Mullins Started as a Railroad Depot, The Tobacco Market came in 1895."  
*Mullins Enterprise.* 26 August 1937.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 9

Dillard Barn  
Name of Property  
Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

---

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Dillard Barn" on the accompanying copy of the plat titled "Map of Property Belonging to Leesa C. McRae, Near Mullins, Marion County, S.C.," dated 6 October 1982, drawn at a scale of 1" = 300'.

Boundary Justification

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 10 Dillard Barn  
Name of Property  
Marion County, South Carolina  
County and State

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

Name of Property: Dillard Barn  
Location of Property: 719 Virginia Drive  
Mullins vicinity, Marion County  
  
Name of Photographer: Charles McRae  
Date of Photographs: April 2005  
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Side elevation
2. Oblique view
3. End elevation
4. Oblique view
5. End elevation
6. Oblique view
7. Oblique view
8. Side elevation
9. Side elevation, with shed detail
10. Interior detail, log construction
11. Interior detail, board reading "Dillard & Sons"
12. Interior detail, brick flue used to cure tobacco
13. Interior detail, rear of brick flue used to cure tobacco
14. Interior detail, log construction and rear of brick flue
15. Interior detail, log construction of walls, beams, and peeled pole rafters, and wide board door
16. Interior detail, wide board door
17. Interior detail, log walls and wide board door
18. Interior detail, log walls and wide board door
19. Interior detail, peeled pole rafters
20. Interior detail, peeled pole rafters