Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

7. America at Work

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 5 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 1 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Donald Bruce House (Preferred), Middlepen Plantation

AND/OR COMMON Donald Bruce House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Located on U.S. 301 North, approximately 1.4 miles from the 178 Bypass

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Orangeburg

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT # 2

STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Orangeburg CODE 075

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | __OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | X UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | __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: vacant |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Col. Russell S. Wolfe

STREET & NUMBER 584 Amelia, N.E.

CITY, TOWN Orangeburg

__ VICINITY OF

STATE South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orangeburg County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Amelia Street, N.E.

CITY, TOWN Orangeburg

STATE South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 (update)

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia

STATE South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | __ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | X ALTERED | X MOVED DATE circa 1837-57 circa 1937 |
| X FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Donald Bruce House was, according to local tradition, built before the American Revolution. It is a two story frame structure with a gable roof and double front piazzas and is set on low brick foundations (not original). Originally, the house stood in the center of Orangeburg. It was moved, sometime between 1837 and 1857, to a plantation outside the city, now called Middlepen Plantation. In 1937, the house was moved about 100 yards to its present location.

EXTERIOR: Constructed of pine, the house has wide flush boarding on the front and clapboarding on other sides. The roof is gabled with a form of "saltbox" extension toward the rear. The original roof has been replaced with an asbestos shingle roof. The front facade has two tiers of piazzas, each with six square posts and plain balustrades. Fenestration is symmetrical, but unusual on the front elevation. The first floor has, centered, a pair of doors, flanked on either side by a window. The paired doors are paneled and each provides access to one of the primary rooms on the first floor. (These doors have been hung upside down.) The second level has, centered, a single door, of board and batten construction, with rectangular transom and sidelights, flanked on either side by two windows. Fenestration on the rear elevation is regular, three bays wide with a single door, centered and recessed, on the first level. Side elevations have exterior brick chimneys (not original), flanked by single windows on the first and second levels and by louvered vents at the attic level. Due to vandalism, the majority of window sashes have been replaced. Window configurations include 9/9, 9/6, and 6/6. Windows have board and batten shutters on both levels, supported with hand-wrought strap hinges and pintles. Window and door surrounds are plain.

INTERIOR: The first floor consists of two large front rooms and two smaller rooms in the rear, separated by an open vestibule which acts as a back porch. The two front rooms have plain wooden mantels. The second floor has four rooms divided into pairs by a central hall. The two front rooms are larger and feature fireplaces with simple mantels similar to those below. The flooring on the second floor joins in the middle of the hallway, over the central dividing wall of the first floor. All rooms on both floors have walls of flush, wide pine boards, extending horizontally the length of the room. Ceilings are plain, except the right front room upstairs which is board and batten (not original). Ceilings in the front rooms are about 12 feet high; those in the rear rooms are approximately 10 feet high. Some early hand-wrought locks and hardware remain.

Although the structure has been vacant for many years, the owner has attempted to maintain it and the property. Presently, the structure is basically sound, although maintenance is needed. There are currently no preservation plans.

SURROUNDINGS: The plantation consists of approximately 200 acres, of which ½ acre is being nominated. Included in the nominated property is the house which is surrounded by a circa 1937 fence which has brick piers and an arched brick gateway. The property is presently overgrown and is buffered from the highway upon which it borders by a pecan grove. Two new small sheds are located outside of the nominated property.

# 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 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| X 1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | X OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | Local history |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Donald Bruce House is one of the oldest surviving structures in the Orangeburg area. According to tradition, it was used as a headquarters during the Revolution by both Gov. John Rutledge (1779) and by Lord Rawdon, the British commander (1781). The house is named for Donald Bruce, prominent merchant, local public official and member of the South Carolina General Assembly during the Revolution. The house is also significant as an example of 18th Century vernacular architecture.

According to tradition, the house was built circa 1735, the year Orangeburg was settled. It is more probable, however, that the house was built either by John Fisher, who was granted, in 1770, the lot on which the house originally stood, or by Donald Bruce, who purchased the lot from Fisher in 1773. The house stood originally at the southeast corner of Windsor and Bull (now Dibble) streets, in downtown Orangeburg. According to tradition, it was purchased in 1837 by Daniel Larey, who moved it to his plantation on Middlepen Branch, later called Middlepen Plantation. The present owner, Russell S. Wolfe, in 1937, moved the house about 100 yards to the section of the plantation that he inherited.

ARCHITECTURE: The architectural value of this structure is derived mainly from its construction and materials, its lines and details simply expressed with pegged construction, hand-wrought nails, and handmade hardware.

LOCAL HISTORY: Donald Bruce established himself as a merchant in Orangeburg in 1773-74. After his death in 1795, the business was continued by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Lockhart Bruce. After her death in 1815, the business was continued by her son-in-law, Samuel Phillips Jones, and her grandson, Donald Bruce Jones, all later residents of the house.

According to local tradition, Gov. John Rutledge made the Donald Bruce House his headquarters in 1779, when Orangeburg was a Patriot military recruiting and training center. Tradition also indicates that in July 1781, the British commander, Lord Rawdon, had his headquarters there for the few days he was in Orangeburg. Another tradition states that during the Civil War an officer and a few men, stragglers from Sherman's army, visited the plantation. They did not burn the house, but destroyed or confiscated all food and valuables.

continued

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Anonymous. "Middlepen Plantation House, The Oldest in Orangeburg County." Xeroxed copy.

Bruce, Jones & Murchison Family Papers. South Caroliniana Library. University of South Carolina, Columbia.


continued

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Latitude N 33 - 28'- 36"
Longitude W 80 - 48'- 53"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ½ acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Orangeburg

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded on all sides by other property belonging to Col. Russell S. Wolfe.

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 Robert P. Stockton
Col. Russell S. Wolfe
Debora L. Gwinn, Lower Savannah Council of Governments

ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE April 27, 1978

STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE 803/758-5816

CITY OR TOWN Columbia

STATE South Carolina


## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 22, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/1/78

ATTEST: William Tolbert

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Nov 30, 1978

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT: Donald Bruce was a Justice of the Peace and Justice of the Quorum for Orangeburg District in 1775, and Tax Inquirer and Collector in 1778. He was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1779-80 (Third General Assembly). Donald Bruce's grandson and namesake, Donald Bruce Jones, who inherited the house, served in the South Carolina House of Representative, 1830-32.

Although the structure has been moved and there are currently no plans for its restoration, there is a great deal of local interest in its preservation. Additionally, there are few structures remaining which are linked to the early history of Orangeburg, South Carolina. Therefore, this structure is being recommended for inclusion in the National Register.

Charleston County Deeds. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

Cooper, Thomas, ed. The Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. IV. Columbia: A.S. Johnson, 1838.

Interview with Col. Russell S. Wolfe, 1975.

Judgement Roll, 1775. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

Orangeburg County Tricentennial - Souvenir Program. Orangeburg: Quality Printing, Inc., 1970.

"Plan of Orangeburg." Undated. Map Case 5, Folder 13. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

Ramsay, David. History of South Carolina, Vol. II. Newberry, S.C.: W.J. Duffie, 1858.

Salley, A.S., Jr. The History of Orangeburg County. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1969 (Reprint).

Salley, Marion. "The House of Donald Bruce." The Writings of Marion Salley. Orangeburg: Orangeburg County Historical Society, 1970.

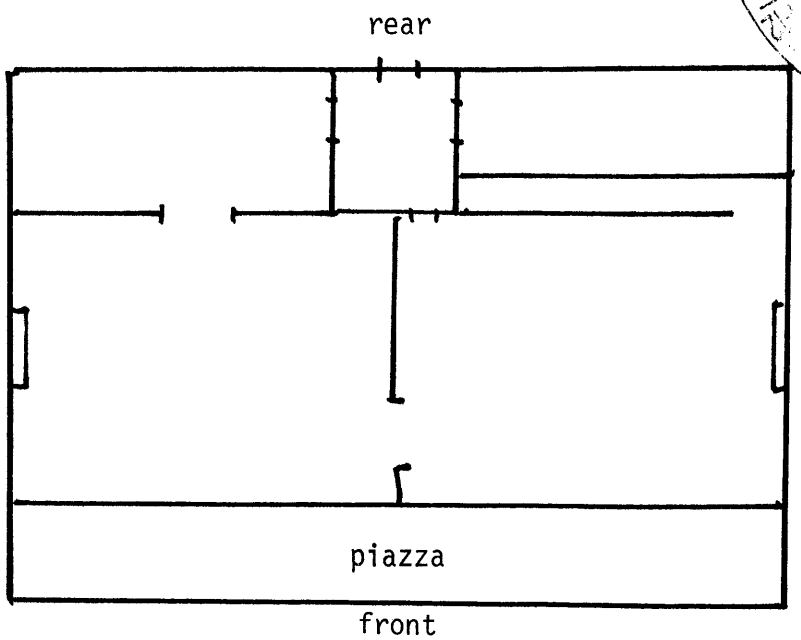
South Carolina Gazette. Jan. 23, 1775. Copy on microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

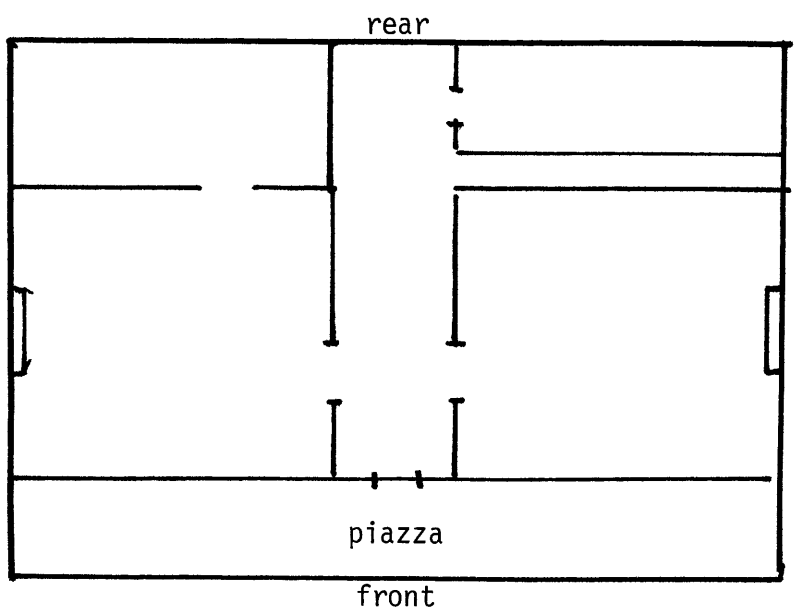
Works Project Administration. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

DONALD BRUCE HOUSE
Floor Plan
Not Drawn to Scale

RECEIVED
JUN 5 1978
NATIONAL REGISTER

first floor




second floor