United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Julien Plantation

and/or common St. Julien Plantation

2. Location

On S.C. Highway 6, approximately ½ mile northwest of
the intersection of S.C. 6 and S-38-222.

3. Classification

Category

Ownership

Status

Present Use

Public Acquisition

Accessible

X occupied

X agriculture

X private

X unoccupied

X commercial

X both

X work in progress

X educational

X in process

X entertainment

X being considered

X government

X restricted

X industrial

X no

X private residence

X military

X transportation

X other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fred K. Norris, Jr.

street & number St. Julien Plantation

city, town Eutawville vicinity of state South Carolina 29048

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orangeburg County Clerk of Court

street & number Amelia Street

city, town Orangeburg state South Carolina 29115

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

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 29211
7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in rural Orangeburg County near Eutawville, St. Julien Plantation is reputed to have been constructed by Thomas William Porcher for his son Julius T. Porcher ca. 1854. Featuring an L-shaped, two story plan with a one story porch in the crook of the L and low-pitched hipped roof with projecting eaves and bracketed cornice, St. Julien plantation house is a vernacular farmhouse showing influence of the Italianate style. The property also contains extant original dependencies, which include a board and batten kitchen, log warehouse, and Carpenter Gothic mule barn.

Exterior: The St. Julien plantation house is composed of an L-shaped two story core, with a one story front porch extending from the lip of the L across the facade to create a rectangle in plan. A one story wing projects from the west side of the building, and a one story back porch, three bays wide, spans the left side of the five bay, two story rear (north) elevation of the house. An enclosed stairway has been added to the rear of the west wing.

Set on a raised basement constructed of stuccoed brick, the plantation house is a wood frame building covered with weatherboard, except in the area beneath the front porch roof, which is faced with flushboard siding. Both the front (south) and rear (north) screened porches, which protect the main entries into the house, are set on high pier foundations. Chamfered posts and plain balustrades are featured on both front and rear porches. The low-pitched hipped roof of the house and bellcast shed roof of the front porch are red, standing seam metal, and are characterized by wide eaves and bracketed cornices. The rear porch features a low-pitched hipped roof of red, standing seam metal with boxed cornice and plain frieze. The three large interior chimneys, one of which straddles the ridge of the west wing roof, all have denticulated caps.

Windows are double-hung sash, six over six lights, with the exception of a tripartite window with movable sash in the south elevation of the west wing, and a small rectangular window (not original) on the first floor of the east elevation. Evidence indicates that two windows were added in the left front room of the second story, one between the two windows in the projecting left side of the south elevation, and one between two windows of the forward portion of the west side. All windows are topped by entablatures, and all but the north windows are flanked by louvered or paneled shutters.

Interior: On each floor of the two story L-shaped portion of the house are four large rooms, all with fireplaces, plaster walls, and wide baseboards. These rooms feature high plaster ceilings, with the exception of the first and second story left front rooms, which have acoustical tile ceilings. The front door, which is framed by a rectangular transom and sidelights, opens into a central vestibule which contains doorways leading into the two formal front rooms, the left rear room, and the stair hall. The right rear room, now the kitchen, can be entered through the stair hall or through a small room, probably once used as a butler's pantry, which opens into the right front room. Access to the bedroom and bath (possibly originally a dressing room) of the west wing is through the left rear room. A fireplace, wide board floors, wide baseboards, and plaster walls are found in the west wing. The narrow board ceiling was added circa 1927. On the second floor, in addition to the four main rooms, there are two small rooms, one of which is now used as a bath, the other, a study. The second floor left front room contains a small, very shallow closet. The second floor stair hall features wide baseboards, paneled wainscoting with chair rail, and plaster walls and ceiling.

Continued
8. Significance

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Specific dates | Builder/Architect
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Reputed to have been constructed ca. 1854 on land originally granted to Joseph de St. Julien in 1737, St. Julien Plantation was the home of Julius Theodore Porcher (1829-1863), a member of a prominent French Huguenot family of St. John's Berkeley Parish. The plantation house, in addition to its association with Julius Porcher, is significant for its design which reflects the Italianate influence on the vernacular farmhouses of the mid 19th century. Also notable are several remaining original outbuildings.

The life and accomplishments of Julius T. Porcher, son of Dr. Thomas William Porcher of Walworth Plantation, were typical of a prosperous South Carolina planter prior to the Civil War. Julius Porcher graduated from the South Carolina College and received his M.D. degree from the S.C. Medical College. Educated to be a doctor, Julius Porcher chose instead to be a planter and was settled by his father at St. Julien Plantation. In 1860, the plantation, which then consisted of 1,500 acres and claimed 121 slaves, produced 18,400 pounds of cotton, livestock, 23 bushels of rye, 2,000 bushels of corn, 60 pounds of wool, 200 bushels of peas and beans, 325 bushels of Irish potatoes, 2,900 bushels of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of butter, and 25 tons of hay. Active in community life, Julius Porcher was a warden of the Rocks Episcopal Church, served as Commissioner of Free Schools, and was a member of the Elliot Society of Natural History and the South Carolina Historical Society.

In addition to having operated a prosperous plantation and having been active in community affairs, Julius Porcher was also a distinguished Confederate soldier. In 1861, he enlisted in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States and was appointed Captain of Company K, 10th Regiment of the S.C. Infantry. Initially responsible for the defense of Bull's Island until that port was abandoned, he was transferred to the army of the West and followed the movements of General Braxton Bragg, who commanded the Army of Tennessee. Julius Porcher was promoted to the rank of major in 1862, and then to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1863. In reports of Col. James F. Pressley (Oct. 5, 1863) and Brig. General Arthur M. Manigault (Oct. 8, 1863), Lieut. Col. Julius Porcher was praised for his conduct in the battle of Chickamauga. In a field and staff muster roll dated November-December 1863, Porcher was reported wounded in the Battle of Missionary Ridge and captured by the enemy. In 1864, Julius Porcher's name appeared on a register of claims of deceased officers and soldiers filed for settlement in the Office of the Confederate States Auditor for the War Department.

Architecture: St. Julien Plantation is a significant nineteenth-century plantation complex, with the main house, major outbuildings, and oak alley intact. The main house is a Victorian vernacular form, with influence from the Italianate style evident in the low-pitched hip roof with its projecting eaves and bracketed cornice. Nineteenth century outbuildings include the kitchen, a mule barn, and a log warehouse, which are notable for the quality of craftsmanship evident in their construction. The plantation is still in use, in its original function.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: approximately 4'

Quadrangle name: Eutawville, S.C.

Quadrangle scale: 1:62,500

UMT References: See Continuation Sheet

Verbal boundary description and justification: The boundary of the St. Julien Plantation nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Orangeburg County tax map entitled "Map no. 1149" and drawn at the scale of 1 inch to 330 feet. The nominated property includes all significant buildings, structures, and landscape elements.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Margaret Marion, Historic Preservation Planner/Fred K. Norris, Jr. (owner)

organization: Lower Savannah Council of Governments

date: August 22, 1980

street & number: Post Office Box 850

telephone: (803) 649-7981

city or town: Aiken

state: South Carolina 29801

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national: ___ state: ___ local: X

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: Charles E. Lee

date: 9/25/80

Keeper of the National Register

date: 11/28/80

Att: [signature]

[Signature]
Paneled wainscoting with chair rail is found in all rooms of the house except in the two formal first floor front rooms, where panels are found only under the windows. Throughout the house, windows and doors are decorated with molded trim, which, in the two formal front rooms features corner blocks. Black marble mantels in the right front and left rear rooms of the first floor are believed to have been imported from England. Other mantels in the house are wood and are of simple design, except the mantel of the left front room, which features a rectangular opening framed by fluted columns and a dentil course under the mantel shelf. This mantel with classical details was probably installed by Frederick Keating Norris, Sr., circa 1926, when he did rehabilitation work on the house. Norris also covered the heart pine floors of most of the first story rooms with hardwood and added doors with beveled glass panes to the first floor formal rooms. The original heart pine floors are intact on the second floor and in the west wing with carpet covering the floors in the study, stair hall, and right front bedroom on the second floor.

Surroundings: Situated in a rural, agricultural setting near Lake Marion, St. Julien Plantation is presently a 1,027 acre farm. Approximately fifty-nine acres of the plantation, which originally contained 1,500 acres, are being nominated. Included in the nominated area are a garden behind the house containing several large Camellia japonicas, which are believed to be among the oldest in the Lowcountry, and a moss-draped live oak allee, the original approach to the house from the old River Road. According to family tradition, this allee was planted in the 1850s by Frederick Connor, overseer and great grandfather of the present owner. Also included in the nominated property are several original outbuildings: the board and batten kitchen which is located behind the house has a hipped roof and board shutters which are held in place by wrought iron strap hinges (the kitchen's chimney is no longer standing); the Carpenter Gothic mule barn, a board and batten building, which is set on a four foot brick foundation and which is characterized by latticed windows with hoods and a gable roof with exposed rafter ends; and the cotton warehouse constructed of horizontal round logs, the ends of which are fitted into grooves in vertical hewn logs. Both the mule barn and warehouse are located to the west of the house. Additional outbuildings within the nominated acreage include a weatherboarded smokehouse, garage, storage building, and several other wood frame farm buildings of undetermined age. A non-historic brick residence, built ca. 1960, is also included within the nominated property.
Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, Microcopy 267, Roll 244. Service Record of Julius T. Porcher.

Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Royal Land Grants. Vol. 3, p. 239. Land Grant from King George II to Joseph de St. Julien, January 12, 1737.


Orangeburg, South Carolina. Orangeburg County Clerk of Court. Records of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book 43, p. 754.


A. Latitude N 33°24'52"
   Longitude W 80°20'51"

B. Latitude N 33°24'23"
   Longitude W 80°21'8"

C. Latitude N 33°24'31"
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