UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK 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  Rip Raps Plantation

AND/OR COMMON  

2 LOCATION  
STREET & NUMBER  South Carolina Highway #378

CITY, TOWN  Sumter  VICINITY OF  
STATE  South Carolina  CODE 045

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  #5

3 CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORY  DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)  X
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP  PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS  OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE  AGRICULTURE
MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME  Mrs. James McBride Dabbs

STREET & NUMBER  Route 1

CITY, TOWN  Mayesville  VICINITY OF  
STATE  South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  Sumter County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  Main Street

CITY, TOWN  Sumter  STATE  South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE  Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE  1973 (update)

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  Columbia  STATE  South Carolina
Located in rural Sumter County, South Carolina, Rip Raps Plantation was constructed in 1858 by James McBrine, a prominent planter. Representative of a vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival design, Rip Raps most notable architectural feature is its use of matching porticos on its north and south facades.

Rip Raps is a two-story clapboard residence, set on brick piers. Rectangular in shape, it measures 55' by 85'. On both the north and south facades, the house is characterized by a full width two-story pedimented portico supported by six paneled piers. Each symmetrical facade is divided into five bays. Each main entrance consists of a doubled paneled door with sidelights and transom, which is centered in the facade. The house features a plain box cornice which is repeated in the pediments and cross gable ends. Each pedimented gable contains a 9/9 sash window with sidelights. Fenestration throughout the remainder of the house is 6/6 and flanked by louvered shutters. Double central chimneys rising from the roof ridge add to the symmetry of design.

INTERIOR: The interior of Rip Raps is simple and undecorated. The main entrance leads to a large central hall which is 12 feet wide and runs the entire length of the house. The hall is flanked on each side by three rooms each of which measures 20' x 20'. Each of these rooms features a chair rail and fireplaces centered in the partition wall between the rooms. The second floor repeats the plan of the first floor.

The central hall of both floors is characterized by a paneled wainscot. Ceiling and walls are of plaster. The first floor features plaster ceiling medallions in each room. Floors throughout are original and all woodwork retains the original hand painted graining. Architectural alterations to the property have been minimal, consisting primarily of the addition of bathrooms and a kitchen.

SURROUNDINGS: The area nominated to the National Register includes those key elements which were historically associated with the Rip Raps Plantation. Structures included within the nominated plantation complex are a circa 1830 structure believed to have been a carriage house, measuring 20' by 30' and constructed of beaded clapboard; a smokehouse, circa 1830, measuring approximately 15' by 20' and constructed of shaped logs; and a barn, circa 1830, constructed of beaded clapboard. Also located within the nominated acreage is the 3/4 mile carriage lane; remains of the plantation mill dam and lake; and the remains of the plantation's rice field and irrigation ditches fed by the mill lake. As these elements represent an attempt to transplant the low country rice culture to the midlands area, they have been included within the area of Rip Raps Plantation complex nominated to the National Register.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1858

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rip Raps Plantation, built in 1858, is significant architecturally as an example of vernacular Greek Revival design; for its association with individuals prominent in the development of Sumter County; and for its association with James McBride Dabbs (1896-1970), a regional author. According to a grant located at Rip Raps, the tract of land on which Rip Raps is located was originally granted to Peter Melet by the King of England in 1750, thus making the property among the earliest homesties in Sumter County. By the early 1820s, the plantation became the property of Samuel McBride, a prosperous planter, who expanded the Rip Raps Plantation to approximately 10,000 acres, building a new house, mill, dam and irrigation system for the cultivation of rice. As Samuel McBride's wealth increased, he exercised considerable influence in the community and the Salem Black River Church (nominated to National Register 1978), where he served as trustee and elder.

Upon the death of Samuel McBride in 1850, the plantation passed to his son, James, who was also a planter. It was James McBride who built the present Rip Raps home in 1858. In 1915, the property passed to James McBride's grandson, James McBride Dabbs. A prominent author and lecturer, James McBride Dabbs made Rip Raps his home until his death in 1970. The property still remains in the McBride-Dabbs family.

AGRICULTURE: Included in the nominated acreage are the remains of the plantation's mill, dam, pond, and irrigation system for the rice fields developed by Samuel McBride. This system represents evidences of an attempt to transplant the low country rice culture to the midlands area of the state.

ARCHITECTURE: The house is an example of the vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival architecture. Unusual in its use of twin facades, the house retains much of the original design elements with its emphasis on symmetry characteristic of the style.

In addition to the main house, the property contains a circa 1830 log smokehouse; a circa 1830 structure said to have been a two-story carriage house, notable for its use of beaded clapboard; and a barn believed to have been built from the remains of the earlier home of Samuel McBride.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN - LITERATURE: James McBride Dabbs (1896-1970) has been recognized nationally for his writings on the southern culture and race relations. Mr. Dabbs published more than one hundred articles in journals of national or regional scope. His book The Southern Heritage (1958) was awarded the Brotherhood Award by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Council on Human Relations; President of the Southern Regional Council; and member of the Board of Trustees, Penn Community Services.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


continued......

GEOPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 215 acres more or less See Continuation Sheet for Longitude & Latitude
QUADRANGLE NAME Mayesville, South Carolina
QUADRANGLE SCALE

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded on the north by S.C. Highway #378. On the west continued......

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie Burr W. Wayne Gray
Historic Preservation Division Santee-Lynches Council of Governments
ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department of Archives and History
DATE August 15, 1978
STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station
TELEPHONE (803) 758-5816
CITY OR TOWN Columbia
STATE South Carolina

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
State Historic Preservation Officer
DATE 10/10/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 12/12/78

KEEPR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/3/78

CHIEF OF ENROLLMENT

DATE

Interviews with Mrs. James McBride Dabbs, June 1978.


the boundary runs parallel to the Plantation's carriage lane, at a distance of 500 feet from the center line of the lane, until it intersects with a small stream approximately one mile south of Highway #378. At this point, the boundary runs in a southeasterly direction along the stream until it reaches a point approximately one-half mile from the western boundary. At this point, the boundary runs in a northeasterly direction parallel to the western boundary for a distance of approximately one-half mile. At this point, the boundary runs in a northwesterly direction until it reaches a point 500 feet east of the center line of the carriage lane. The boundary then follows the carriage lane northward until it intersects with S. C. Highway #378.

With the exception of its northern boundary on S. C. Highway #378, the nominated acreage is bounded on all sides by property belonging to Mrs. James McBride Dabbs.
Longitude and Latitude

A. N33° 54' 30"
   W80° 08' 55"

B. N33° 54' 18"
   W80° 08' 25"

C. N33° 53' 24"
   W80° 09' 06"

D. N33° 53' 37"
   W80° 09' 32"
Supplemental Enclosure
Plat of Rip Raps Plantation
indicating the nominated acreage.
Santee-Lynches Council of Govts.
Supplemental Enclosure
Sketch Map of Rip Raps Plantation
Sumter County, South Carolina
Drawn by Santee–Lynches Council of Governments, June 1978
OCT 1978

NOT TO SCALE
PLEASE NOTE: THE BOUNDARY OF THE NOMINATED AREA EXTENDS SLIGHTLY OFF OF THE EDGE OF THIS SKETCH & IS DELINEATED IN RED.

DEC 2 1978
Original blueprint of the plantation home built by James McBride at the age of eighteen just prior to his marriage on February 22, 1859, to Sophronia Adams Warren, two years his senior.

He named the house in memory of a happy boyhood trip to visit relatives in the North. On the way home his party had camped one night beside the Rip Rap River, a small mountain stream in Virginia. After his house was completed and he heard the rain running down the long gutters, he was reminded of the night he had slept to the music of the little river gurgling and splashing over the rocks.

James died in 1864 leaving a small daughter, Hauke, and an infant son, Guy. His widow, who never remarried, lived here until her death in 1898. Guy died a bachelor and Hauke married Eugene Whitfield Dabbs. To their second son, James McBride Dabbs, his grandmother left her home, Rip Raps.

At one time, Rip Raps Plantation comprised 10,000 acres.
Supplemental Enclosure

Architectural plans for Rip Raps Plantation. In possession of Mrs. James McBride Dabbs. Note: These preliminary plans were followed with a slight alteration in the configuration of the porch on the north & south facades. (Piers were used rather than free standing columns)

DEC 12 1978