

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>
COUNTY: <b>Union</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUN 20 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Merridun**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**100 Merridun Place**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Union**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**5 - Thomas S. Gettys**

STATE <b>South Carolina</b>	CODE <b>045</b>	COUNTY: <b>Union</b>	CODE <b>087</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAR 6 1974

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mrs. Louisa D. Eaves**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**100 Merridun Place**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Union**

STATE:  
**South Carolina**

CODE:  
**087**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Union County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**West Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Union**

STATE:  
**South Carolina**

CODE:  
**045**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**South Carolina Department of Archives and History**

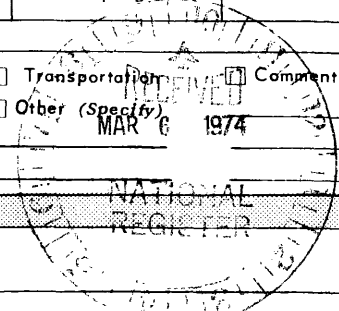
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1430 Senate Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Columbia**

STATE:  
**South Carolina**

CODE:  
**045**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

JUN 20 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Merridun presents a classic revival appearance that somewhat conceals its origins as a large but simple Georgian-styled house constructed ca. 1855.

Exterior: A massive two-storied portico with four Corinthian columns shelters a one-story veranda that extends partially around both sides of the house. The veranda has a brick floor, pressed tin ceiling, Corinthian columns, and roof balustrade. The tiered veranda that originally appeared on the front facade was altered around the turn of the century to its present form.

The windows have plain pediments and are 6/9 on the first level with two windows to either side of the central front doors on both floors.

There is a right rear dining room and kitchen projection with bedrooms above. An original tiered veranda opens from these rooms onto the left side yard. Three main chimneys pierce the semi-flat roof and service fireplaces in every room.

Interior: Spacious central hallways on the first and second floors are connected by a winding stairway that follows the apsidal rear wall of the hall. A semi-circular paneled door opens under the staircase to the rear veranda. The hall floor is an Italian mosaic.

Massive double doors open into the north and south parlors, which have high ceilings and heart pine floors. The north parlor ceiling has an elaborate fresco decorated with flowers and musical instruments accentuated by gilded cornice molding and a central medallion.

The large dining room has a ceiling fresco with the motif of flowers and wild game. Other rooms also contained frescoes which have since been destroyed. All were painted ca. 1900 by Otto Hamer, a German artist.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)      ca. 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

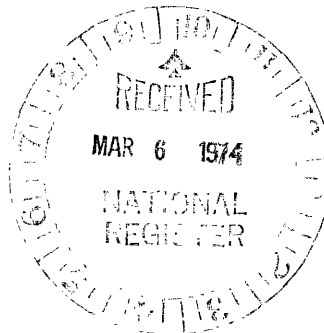
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Merridun, a large structure with classic revival details, was built ca. 1855 by W.J. Keenan and purchased in 1876 by Benjamin H. Rice. It has since been occupied by Rice descendants, among whom was Thomas Duncan, Union County political and industrial leader.

Architecture: Considerably altered around the turn of the century, this antebellum dwelling now has a classic revival appearance. Its two-storied portico with Corinthian columns shelters the first floor veranda which partially extends on both sides of the house. The Georgian floor plan includes a curving staircase and large rooms. Outstanding features of the house are the frescoed ceilings in the north parlor and dining room, and the Italian mosaic floor in the downstairs hall.

Industry: Thomas Duncan, grandson of Benjamin H. Rice, built the first industrial mill in the area with the establishment of Union Cotton Mill in 1893; three years later he built the Buffalo Cotton Mill. Duncan also constructed the Union and Glenn Springs Railroad and the hydro-electric plant at Neal Shoals in conjunction with his textile operations.

Political: Thomas Gary Duncan served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1892 to 1894 and again from 1916 until 1918. He was a member of the South Carolina Senate from 1918 until 1926 (after having served as Mayor of Union from 1910 until 1914).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kohn, August. The Cotton Mills of South Carolina. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration, E.J. Watson, Commissioner, 1909.

Reynolds, Emily B., and Joan Reynolds Faunt. Biographical Directory of the Senate of South Carolina: 1776-1964. Senatorial Research Committee Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964.

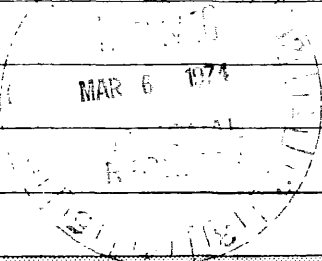
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		34 ° 43 ' 10 "	81 ° 37 ' 48 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **William H. Brabham Historic Resources Coordinator I**

ORGANIZATION: **S.C. Department of Archives and History** DATE: **January 15, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **045**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee  
 Title Director  
S.C. Department of Archives and History  
 Date January 28, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Walter A. Gurnea  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JUN 20 1974

ATTEST:

Charles E. Lee  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/17/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS