

PH0505293

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 29 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 17 1978

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
Otranto Plantation
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
18 Basilica Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Hanahan
STATE
South Carolina
VICINITY OF
1
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNTY
Berkeley
CODE
015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Otranto Land Company
STREET & NUMBER
8740 Northpark Blvd.
CITY, TOWN
Hanahan
STATE
South Carolina
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Berkeley County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Moncks Corner
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
_FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: The house is a 1½ story building, built low to the ground, a modified rectangle in shape, with an attached colonnaded porch on three sides. Exterior walls and columns are stuccoed brick. The roof is a low gable, with three dormers on the front slope and two on the back slope. Gable ends have a low parapet with a course of brick as cornice. The low shedlike roof of the porch has a plain box cornice. Columns supporting the porch roof are evenly spaced, but not related to window and door placement. Fourteen columns, untapered, rise directly from the masonry porch and end in plinth-like caps with no entablature; the porch does not extend to the rear of the house. The rear facade has a window on either side of a central extension of the building, one bay square and terminating in a pedimented portico supported by heavy plaster-over-brick columns. All window openings are rectangular with plain surrounds and sills. Windows are double-hung, with nine lights to the sash on the first floor and six to a sash in the upper half story. Shutters are three-paneled and doorways have recessed transoms with three lights.

In 1934 a fire occurred, damaging a portion of the exterior and destroying the interior of the structure.

Interior: The first floor plan consists of a large living room and a smaller drawing room in front; a study and kitchen are located behind the living room, and a bath and a stairwell are located behind the drawing room. One chimney serves fireplaces in the living room, study, and kitchen; fireplaces in the study and kitchen are located in the corners of the rooms; the other chimney serves a fireplace in the drawing room. The half story has a central hall with two bedrooms on the west side and a bedroom, bath, and stairwell on the east side. Prior to a fire in 1934, the staircase extended from the rear into what is now the drawing room. Although neither photographs nor plans exist to document the interior prior to the fire, the restoration appears to be in the style of the original.

Surroundings: The house sits atop a bluff surrounded by shrubbery and lawn. Both sides of the avenue of oaks and the remainder of the plantation have been laid out in a subdivision.

In the yard near the house is a small frame servants' house of undetermined age.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the house at Otranto is unlike any other surviving plantation house in the South Carolina lowcountry. Its construction date is undocumented. It has been speculated that the house was constructed in the early part of the Colonial period, because it is built low to the ground and has an irregular floor plan, similar to early houses in Charleston. It also resembles (without its colonnade) a house depicted on the Culpepper map of Charles Town, dated 1672. Arthur Middleton, who with his brother Edward was granted the property in 1679, had a dwelling house on the plantation, then called Yeshoe, in 1682. The next subsequent mention of a house on the property is in 1778, in a deed in which Dr. Alexander Garden conveyed the property to trustees for his wife and son. The Berkeley biography attributes construction of the house to Dr. Garden, who bought the plantation in 1771. Architectural historian Sam Stoney attributes construction to Dr. Garden's son, Maj. Alexander Garden, ca. 1790, based on interior architectural details in the Federal style, observed before the house burned in 1934. In the fire, the interior of the house was gutted, but most of the exterior and colonnade survived. The house was rebuilt very nearly to its original appearance.

Architecture: Although Otranto was extensively burned in 1934 (the interior was destroyed and the exterior was damaged), it has been restored. The accuracy of the exterior restoration is substantiated by a series of photographs taken before the fire; the interior reconstruction appears to be in the style of the original. The structure is important because of its form with a columned piazza encircling the masonry walls and parapeted gable ends. The form is indigenous to sub-tropical climates.

Literature: Otranto's name is literary, being derived from Horace Walpole's gothic novel, The Castle of Otranto, published in 1764. The plantation is first called Otranto in a deed of 1785. Otranto Plantation was the inspiration for the poem, "Carolina; or the Planter," by Dr. Alexander Garden's friend, George Ogilvie.

Military: Maj. Alexander Garden was aide-de-camp to General Nathaniel Greene in 1782, having previously served as a cornet in Lee's Legion. He published Anecdotes of the Revolutionary War in America (Charleston, 1822) and Anecdotes of the American Revolution (Charleston, 1828).

Science: Dr. Alexander Garden was one of the most important scientific figures of Colonial South Carolina. He was a leader in the fields of medicine, botany and natural

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berkeley, Edmund and Berkeley, Dorothy S. Dr. Alexander Garden of Charles Town.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

Salley, A.S., Jr., ed. Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1672-1771. Columbia:
University of South Carolina Press, 1973,

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 5891740 36471940
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the west by Basilica Avenue and on all other sides by other property of the Otranto Land Company.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elias Bull, Preservation Planner, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council

Robert P. Stockton

Cathy Caffrey and Otranto Garden Club

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

August 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia

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 9/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 2/17/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *Charles E. Lee*

DATE 2.19.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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science and published several scientific papers. He was a correspondent of many of the major scientists of his day, including the renowned Carolus Linnaeus of Sweden, who named the flowering shrub, Gardenia, for him. As a physician, Dr. Garden introduced in South Carolina the method of isolation and vaccine for smallpox.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Smith, Henry A. M. "Goose Creek," S.C. Historical and Genealogical Magazine,
Vol. 29. Ed. Mabel Louise Webber. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1928.

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. Plantations of the Carolina Low Country. Rev. Charleston:
Carolina Art Association, 1964, p. 71.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston County Deeds. Book
S-7, p. 293; Book B-6, p. 560.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Map of Charles Town and
Ashley River, 1672, by John Culpepper.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Records of the Register of
the Province, 1696-1703, p. 92.