

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received **OCT 6 1980**

date entered **NOV 25 1980**

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

**1. Name**

historic Murrells Inlet

and/or common Murrells Inlet Historic District

**2. Location**

street & number East of U.S. Highway 17 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Murrells Inlet Community \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state South Carolina code 045 county Georgetown code 043

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: marshland and saltwater creek

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ vicinity of state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Georgetown County Courthouse

street & number Screven Street

city, town Georgetown state South Carolina 29440

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of Historic Places  
title in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Murrells Inlet Historic District is a quiet resort community spreading along the edge of a saltwater creek and marsh in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. In spite of the commercial development which has characterized other parts of the area, this section has retained its special character of untouched marshland, antebellum estates, and resort cottages. Along the section of U.S. Highway 17 bypass which lies on the western boundary of the historic district, the proliferation of restaurants has taken place for the most part west of the highway.

The natural setting featuring trees draped with Spanish moss and the tranquil marsh with its wildlife remains much as it has since the nineteenth century. Numerous trees surround the houses, and the live oaks and cedars noted in a mid-nineteenth century description of the area are still common today. Since most of the buildings overlook the creek and marshland to the east, and since the creek and marshland provide the essential setting, a substantial amount of this area has been included in the potential historic district. Besides being crucial visually to the area, the marshland has played an integral part in the historical development of Murrells Inlet. Because of the natural setting two antebellum planters located their estates here, and later the surroundings drew twentieth-century vacationers who sought a relaxing retreat.

Residential in character, Murrells Inlet Historic District contains approximately nineteen houses. Although they exhibit some diversity, the prevalent use of wood as a building material, the large screened porches, and the setting of moss draped trees, marshland, and piers provide a visual unity.

Key properties contributing to the character of the historic district:

1. Sunnyside: one and one-half story beaded weatherboarded cottage built ca. 1850 by J. Motte Alston as a winter home for himself; three bay facade with central tetrastyle portico, four paneled pillars stand on four paneled pedestals to support pediment, tall tympanum pierced by central window with pedimented architrave, pedimented architrave motif repeated on central door and single windows flanking architrave, two central interior chimneys, central hallway leading to rear stairhall with oval mahogany staircase.
29. The Hermitage: one and one-half story weatherboarded Greek Revival cottage built ca. 1848 as a summer home for Dr. Allard Belin Flagg; five bay facade with central tetrastyle portico, solid wooden columns supporting a pediment, shingled tympanum with a central oculus, front door with multi-light transom and sidelights, two interior chimneys with hooded brick caps.

Other properties contributing to the character of the district:

3. Buxton: ca. 1925, two stories, frame with shiplap siding, one story screened porch on southwest elevation, frame outbuilding.
5. Tuck 'Em Inn: 1914, one story, frame, weatherboarded, porch across southeast and southwest elevations, property includes frame servants' house.

Continued

## 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 type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" 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 (in one paragraph)

Located in the community of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, the Murrells Inlet Historic District contains a significant concentration of buildings which visually reflect the transition of the area from the adjoining estates of two nineteenth-century rice planters into a twentieth-century resort community. In the mid-nineteenth century, homes were built here for two prominent Georgetown County rice planters, Jacob Motte Alston and Dr. Allard Belin Flagg. After the lands began to be subdivided in the early twentieth century, a small community of summer houses developed. In addition, several South Carolina writers have been associated with this section of Murrells Inlet. Today the historic district contains two antebellum houses, which are local interpretations of the Greek Revival style, as well as a collection of twentieth-century vernacular resort buildings.

Agriculture: The lands of Sunnyside and the Hermitage, near the rice plantations of Waccamaw Neck, were more agreeable settings for homes than the isolated, swampy rice plantations. The son of a leading rice planter of the neck, Jacob Motte Alston, who had been living at his rice plantation Woodbourne, decided between 1849 and 1858 to build his new house, Sunnyside, at Murrells Inlet "In order to render matters pleasanter." Since Woodbourne was only two miles away, Alston was able to ride out each day and tend to his rice fields. The Hermitage was built circa 1848-49 as a summer home for another prominent resident of Waccamaw Neck, Dr. Allard Belin Flagg. Dr. Flagg was the master of Wachesaw, a rice plantation in northern Georgetown District.

Social: This area of Murrells Inlet has been a distinct, pleasant environment for homes at least since Sunnyside and the Hermitage were built in the mid-nineteenth century. Beginning in the early days of the twentieth century, the plantation lands beside the marsh were divided into lots, and resort homes were built. By 1920 a small settlement along the marshland had developed on former lands of Sunnyside and the Hermitage. Today the historic district remains a peaceful resort area.

Although the pattern of land use has changed, certain natural aspects of life on the marshland have been enjoyed by residents for over 100 years. For example, Jacob Motte Alston wrote that, when he lived at Sunnyside, "the deep creek in front of the house [contributed] all the fish, oysters, clams, crabs, shrimp, etc." that the household needed. A description of Murrells Inlet written in 1941 reported, "The fishing is unusually good, and one has only to wade into the shallow water to pick up oysters, crabs, and clams. Today the piers extending into the saltwater creek and the clam diggers seen at low tide testify to the continuing value of the marshland to the community.

Literature: Several South Carolinians have found the quiet community on the marsh a good environment for writing. In the 1920s Julia Peterkin, a Pulitzer prizewinning author, found a retreat conducive to writing in a family home near Sunnyside. Clarke

Continued

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property approximately 585

Quadrangle name Brookgreen

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	7	6	3	5	1	1	9	3	7	1	6	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	7	6	8	3	7	8	3	3	7	1	3	7	6	2
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	7	6	3	2	4	1	9	3	7	1	4	4	6	1
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	7	6	8	3	2	2	0	3	7	1	6	2	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Murrells Inlet Historic District nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Murrells Inlet Historic District" and drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes those portions of the Murrells Inlet community and adjacent marshland which are considered to retain historic integrity.

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 Mary Watson, John Wells, Suzanne Pickens Ms. Mary S. Walker  
Historical Programs Section Sunnyside, Murrells Inlet, S.C.  
South Carolina Department of 29576  
organization Archives and History date \_\_\_\_\_  
1430 Senate Street  
street & number Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station telephone (803) 758-5816  
city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/25/80

For HCERS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
for W. Ray Juce date 11/25/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Ann Duke date 11/25/80  
Chief of Registration

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Mrs. Mary S. Walker<br/>Sunnyside<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>29. Mr. Clarke A. Willcox, Jr.<br/>Mrs. Lillian R. Willcox<br/>P.O. Box 196<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>3. Mr. Richard Edward Mancill III<br/>P.O. Box 698<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>5. Mr. B. Pratt Gasque<br/>Mr. J. O. Gasque, Jr.<br/>Drawer 976<br/>Marion, S.C. 29571</p> <p>6. Mr. J. M. Carmichael<br/>5040 Sunnyside Dr., S.W.<br/>Roanoke, VA 24018</p> <p>7. Mr. A. T. Heath, Jr.<br/>Mrs. Mary Harvin Heath<br/>P.O. Box 1150<br/>Sumter, S.C. 29150</p> <p>8. Ms. Olive Buxton Mancill<br/>General Delivery<br/>McClellanville, S.C. 29458</p> <p>9. Mr. Joseph K. Fairey II<br/>129 E. Bridge Street<br/>St. Matthews, S.C. 29135</p> <p>10. Mr. W. G. Nichols, Jr.<br/>P.O. Box 116<br/>Pawleys Island, S.C. 29585</p> <p>11. Ms. Cameron M. Quantz<br/>208 N. Kershaw Street<br/>Timmons ville, S.C. 29161</p> <p>13. Ms. Dorothy Prevost Bates<br/>Mr. Jack S. Bates<br/>P.O. Box 10144<br/>Charleston, S.C. 29411</p> | <p>14. Estate of D. S. Nye<br/>c/o Mr. David S. Nye, Jr., Exec.<br/>213 Park Avenue<br/>Conway, S.C. 29526</p> <p>17. Ms. Willie May Foley<br/>7 Haruy Avenue<br/>Sumter, S.C. 29150</p> <p>18. Ms. Nancy S. King<br/>P.O. Box 316<br/>Conway, S.C. 29526</p> <p>19. Mr. Chafee Jones<br/>118 Lawson Road<br/>Darlington, S.C. 29532</p> <p>21. Mr. A. McKoy Rose, Trustee<br/>Ms. Lucille Rose Deal, Trustee<br/>732 Cherokee Street<br/>Marietta, GA 30060</p> <p>22. Mr. A. McCoy Rose, Trustee<br/>Ms. Lucille Rose Deal, Trustee<br/>732 Cherokee Street<br/>Marietta, GA 30060</p> <p>23. Mr. William R. Johnston et al.<br/>c/o R. E. L. Brown<br/>313 Kings Highway<br/>North Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29582</p> <p>24. Ms. Dorothy H. Thames<br/>911 Dogwood Drive<br/>Marion, S.C. 29571</p> <p>26. Mr. David Marion Michaux III<br/>Route 1, Box 30<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>32. Marina Colony, Inc.<br/>c/o Rollins and Hagan Insurance Agency<br/>Johnsonville, S.C. 29555</p> <p>35. Luther H. Smith, Inc.<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>36. Luther H. Smith, Inc.<br/>Box 152<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> |
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| <p>40. Mr. John J. O'Neill<br/>Ms. Barbara E. O'Neill<br/>97-33 80th Street<br/>Ozone Park, NY 11416</p> <p>41. Mr. A. McCoy Rose, Trustee<br/>Ms. Lucille Rose Deal, Trustee<br/>732 Cherokee Street<br/>Marietta, GA 30060</p> <p>42. Ms. Miriam S. Dozier<br/>1204 Main<br/>Conway, S.C. 29526</p> <p>43. Ms. Nancy S. King<br/>P.O. Box 316<br/>Conway, S.C. 29526</p> <p>44. Ms. Catherine S. Harper<br/>Mr. William Earle Smith<br/>c/o Mr. M. H. Smith<br/>P.O. Box 1948<br/>Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577</p> <p>46. Mr. Clarke A. Willcox, Jr.<br/>Mrs. Lillian R. Willcox<br/>P.O. Box 196<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>47. Luther H. Smith, Inc.<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>48. Mr. D. B. Pendergrass<br/>Box 235<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>49. State of South Carolina<br/>(The Honorable Richard W. Riley<br/>Governor of South Carolina<br/>Chairman, Budget &amp; Control Board<br/>P.O. Box 11450<br/>Columbia, S.C. 29211)</p> <p>2. Mr. James Rembert Mayes III<br/>Ms. Terri Price Mayes<br/>P.O. Box 1346<br/>Sumter, S.C. 29150</p> | <p>4. Mr. Robert L. Bailes<br/>Ms. Evelyn G. Bailes<br/>P.O. Box 845<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>12. William George Peterkin III<br/>Route 1<br/>Fort Motte, S.C. 29050</p> <p>15. Pendar Land Holding Co., Inc.<br/>P.O. Box 407<br/>Conway, S.C. 29526</p> <p>16. Mrs. Julia Crosland Krell<br/>Route 1, Box 261<br/>Eastover, S.C. 29044</p> <p>20. Ms. Rosa T. Lawton<br/>Coastal Federal Savings and Loan<br/>P.O. Box 2067<br/>Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577</p> <p>25. Ms. Hattie Costa King<br/>Route 1<br/>Johnsonville, S.C. 29555</p> <p>27. Dr. B. D. Caughman<br/>1651 Shady Lane<br/>Columbia, S.C. 29206</p> <p>28. Mr. Henry Scarborough Todd<br/>Ms. Peggy Gurganus Todd<br/>Mount Gillead Road<br/>Lot B<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>30. Mr. Clarke A. Willcox, Jr.<br/>Mrs. Lillian R. Willcox<br/>P.O. Box 196<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>31. Ms. Anna W. Falkenberg<br/>6533 Pencade Lane<br/>Charlotte, N.C. 28215</p> <p>33. Ms. Harriett H. Michaux<br/>P.O. Box 103<br/>Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576</p> <p>34. Mr. J. W. King<br/>Route 1<br/>Johnsonville, S.C. 29555</p> |
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- 
37. Ms. Sadie L. Martin McLaughlin  
Box 17624  
Oliver Avenue  
Lake Melton, OH 44429
38. Ms. Sadie L. Martin McLaughlin  
Box 17624  
Oliver Avenue  
Lake Melton, OH 44429
39. Mr. John J. O'Neill  
Ms. Barbara E. O'Neill  
97-33 80th Street  
Ozone Park, NY 11416
45. Luther H. Smith, Inc.  
Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

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6. Willouise: ca. 1915, one story, frame with asbestos siding, porch across southeast and southwest elevations, batten shutters, frame outbuilding.
7. Sea Pines: ca. 1915, one story, frame with shiplap siding, screened porch on southwest elevation, ribbon windows across southeast elevation, concrete block outbuilding.
8. Landscaped lot with greenhouse.
9. Fairey House: ca. 1945, one story, frame with shiplap siding, porch on southeast and southwest elevations, property includes frame servants' house.
10. Curlew Point: ca. 1940, two stories, frame, weatherboarded, one story porch across southeast and southwest elevations, two dormers in front (southeast) slope of roof, frame outbuilding.
11. Quantz House: ca. 1925, one and one-half stories, frame with shiplap siding, porch across southeast and southwest elevations, oversized dormer in front (southeast) slope of roof, property includes frame servants' house and outbuilding.
13. Bates House: ca. 1900, one and one-half stories, frame with board and batten siding, high pitched, wood shingled hip roof with dormer gable, porch on southeast, northeast, and southwest elevations, batten shutters.
14. Nyoka: ca. 1900, one and one-half stories, frame with wood shingles, porch across southeast elevation, recessed porch in front (southeast) slope of roof, frame outbuilding.
17. Liberty Lodge: ca. 1920, one story, frame, weatherboarded, roof extends to cover porch on southeast, northeast, and southwest elevations, dormers on three slopes of roof, batten shutters.
18. Vacant lot.
19. Jones House: ca. 1930, one story, frame, weatherboarded, ribbon windows.
21. The Roses: ca. 1915, one and one-half stories, frame with shiplap siding, screened one story porch across southeast elevation, three dormers in front (southeast) slope of roof.
22. Vacant lot.
23. The House Without a Name: ca. 1915, one story, frame with shiplap siding, roof extends to cover porch on southeast elevation, dormer with ribbon windows, batten shutters.
24. Hunterest: ca. 1920, one and one-half stories, frame with shiplap siding, one story screened porch on southeast elevation.

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26. 'Chaux Place: ca. 1925, two story with one story extension on southeast elevation, frame with shiplap siding, remodeled.
32. Vacant lot.
35. Vacant lot.
36. Vacant lot.
40. Vacant lot.
41. Rose House: ca. 1940, two stories, frame with shiplap siding, two story screened porch on southeast elevation.
42. Vacant lot.
43. N. S. King House: ca. 1925, one story frame weatherboarded bungalow.
44. Vacant lot.
46. Marshland and saltwater creek.
47. Marshland and saltwater creek.
48. Marshland and saltwater creek.
49. Marshland and saltwater creek.

Noncontributing properties:

2. Mayes House: contemporary, one story, frame with shiplap siding, screened porch.
4. Bailes House: ca. 1940, one story, brick, screened porch at northeast and southeast corners, property includes brick outbuilding and contemporary garage apartment.
12. Peterkin House: ca. 1955, one story, frame covered with weatherboard, roof extends to cover porch across facade, property includes contemporary frame garage apartment.
15. Mobile home.
16. Shady Oaks: contemporary, one and one-half story, frame, brick veneer, two small outbuildings.
20. Lawton House: ca. 1940, two stories on rear, one story on front, stuccoed, picture windows.
25. H. C. King House: contemporary frame raised beach cottage with asbestos siding.

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27. Caughman House: contemporary, one story, frame, asbestos siding, screened porch on southeast elevation, property includes outbuilding.
28. Todd House, ca. 1950, one story, frame with shiplap siding, porch on southeast elevation, property includes outbuilding.
30. Hermitage Nursery: one story frame building and Quonset hut.
31. Captain Worrell: ca. 1950, one story, frame with shiplap siding.
33. H. H. Michaux House: contemporary, one story, frame, porch across southeast elevation.
34. J. W. King House: contemporary, one story frame cottage with screened porch on southeast elevation.
37. Vacant lot: fenced lot, includes outbuilding.
38. McLaughlin House: contemporary, one story, frame, brick veneer.
39. O'Neill House: contemporary, one story, concrete block.
45. Smith's Landing: remodeled older building, restaurant and bait and tackle shop.

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Willcox, the present resident of the Hermitage, has compiled a collection of poetry and historical sketches of the region which have been published in Musings of a Hermit. Another South Carolina writer, Jacob Motte Alston, was associated with the area. His reminiscences, which include several descriptions of life at Sunnyside before the Civil War, have been published in the volume Rice Planter and Sportsman.

Architecture: The architecture of this section of Murrells Inlet reflects the changing lifestyles of the inhabitants of the area as well as the evolution of architectural design. The two antebellum houses with their pedimented porticos are notable local interpretations of the Greek Revival style. In addition, they have remained basically unaltered since the nineteenth century. The later resort houses are practical vernacular buildings well adapted to the more casual twentieth-century life on the marshland. For example, the large screened porches found on most of these houses have allowed the inhabitants to take full advantage of ocean breezes.

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- Lachicotte, Alberta Morel. Georgetown Rice Plantations. Columbia, SC: State Commercial Printing Company, 1955, pp. 64, 65.
- Rogers, George C., Jr. The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1970, pp. 253, 256, 508, 509.
- Smith, Henry A. M. "The Baronies of South Carolina." South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine 14 (April 1913): 61-80.
- Spell, Sarah C. "Alice Is the Unseen Hostess at the Hermitage." Sandlapper 4 (February 1971): 32-34.
- Walker, Mrs. Mary. Sunnyside, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Interviews, 29 January and 16 July 1980.
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- Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of South Carolina. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941, p. 275.