



1.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, De La Howe, John, State School in McCormick County, South Carolina, reference number SG100001247, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 06/05/1970. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

11/7/17

Date

District # 3
Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn

Theme: 9
Society and Social Conscience

SG 10000 1247

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: McCormick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	6-5-70

1. NAME

COMMON:

John De La Howe School Site and Tomb

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Lethe Agricultural Seminary Site

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Off South Carolina Highway 81 9 miles Northwest of McCormick

CITY OR TOWN:

McCormick

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

South Carolina

045

McCormick

065

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☒ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☒ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) Children's Home

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

State of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Abbeville County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Abbeville

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:

S.C. 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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1447 acre John De La Howe School property contains the historic sites of the eighteenth century Lethe Plantation, the Lethe Agricultural Seminary founded in 1797, and the tomb of John De La Howe, the original owner of the Lethe Plantation and benefactor of the school. The present twentieth-century buildings are not significant, although the institution of the John De La Howe School is of historic importance since it evolved from the eighteenth-century Lethe school.

John De La Howe built Lethe Plantation in the late eighteenth century, but none of the plantation buildings remain. The plantation was a mysterious retreat, ornamented with artificial avenues of trees, fruit orchards, vineyards, exotic plants and guarded by a stone wall. The original walks and planted avenues were still visible in 1854, and the present school campus is likewise landscaped with walks and tree-lined avenues, although the original pattern may have been altered.

De La Howe's tomb is located on the southern end of the school property, within one of the finest virgin timber stands in the United States. The tomb is enclosed by an eight feet high brick wall in a forest clearing.

Most of the original campus buildings were wood frame barns and houses, but none of these original buildings remain standing. In the 1890s the first brick buildings were built. A fire in 1937 destroyed the most impressive brick building on the campus, which contained the dormitories, kitchen, dining room, and classrooms. After 1937 the campus was redesigned with traditional brick cottages; a brick and stone administration building, classroom building, church, infirmary and gymnasium, as well as modern farm buildings.

SURROUNDINGS:

The campus property is about one mile above the French Huguenot town of New Bordeaux, settled in 1760. The 1447 acre property is between the Little River and Long Cane Creek, tributaries of the Savannah River that have been flooded by the creation of Clark Hill Reservoir. The property is on a peninsula heavily forested with hardwoods with ground sloping downward on all sides towards the water. Much of the land has been cleared for farming on the higher central portion of the peninsula where the school buildings are located.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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)

1797

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☒ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | |
| ☒ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | ☒ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☒ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. John De La Howe came to America in 1760 with a group of some 200 French Presbyterian Huguenots. In his will, De La Howe entrusted his estate, a land grant from King George III of England, to the Agricultural Society of South Carolina for the purpose of setting up an Agricultural Farm School.

Thus, in 1797 Lethe Agricultural Seminary was founded as a home and training school for boys and girls whose parents were dead or incapable of caring for them. In its beginning, the enrollment numbered twelve boys and twelve girls.

During and following the War Between the States it was the only institution in the state not under radical control.

The early decades of the 1900s saw South Carolina progressing in the field of social legislation. As a result of this movement, the De La Howe School in 1918 was converted into a state institution for the training and care of neglected children from across the state. Its name was changed from Lethe Agricultural Seminary (Lethe, according to Greek mythology, was a river in Hades which promised instantaneous forgetfulness of suffering to those drinking its waters) to the John De La Howe School.

The School, governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor, is one of the first examples of individual philanthropy in the history of childcaring institutions in the United States and is the second oldest institution in the Carolinas. The purpose of the institution is to train, free of charge, neglected and dependent children and to guide them in their religious and moral upbringing.

The tomb of Dr. De La Howe is included on the grounds. Dr. De La Howe stated in his will that 1,000 acres should be preserved in its original state. The forests have been well managed, and one tract of about 100 acres around De La Howe's tomb contains a fine virgin timber forest of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anonymous, Historical Sketch of the John De La Howe School, reprinted from the Seventh Annual Report (1931) of the Orphan Section of the Duke Endowment (with supplement).
 Anonymous, Industrial Education Circular No. 24, January 1926, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.
 Moragne, W.C., The Arrival of French Protestants in South Carolina 90th Anniversary Address.
 Rogers, Grace, "A Home Away From Home", from South Carolina Magazine, June 1969.
Colonial Land Grants, Index: p. 268.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	33°	58' 48"	3 1/4"	82°	25'	52"		
NE	33°	58' 48"	3 1/4"	82°	24'	06"		
SE	33°	56'	00"	82°	24'	06"		
SW	33°	56'	00"	82°	25'	52"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1447**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Norman McCorkle and John Califf

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **August 21, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, Box 11,669, Capitol Station

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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**
 Director
 Title **S.C. Department of Archives and History**

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

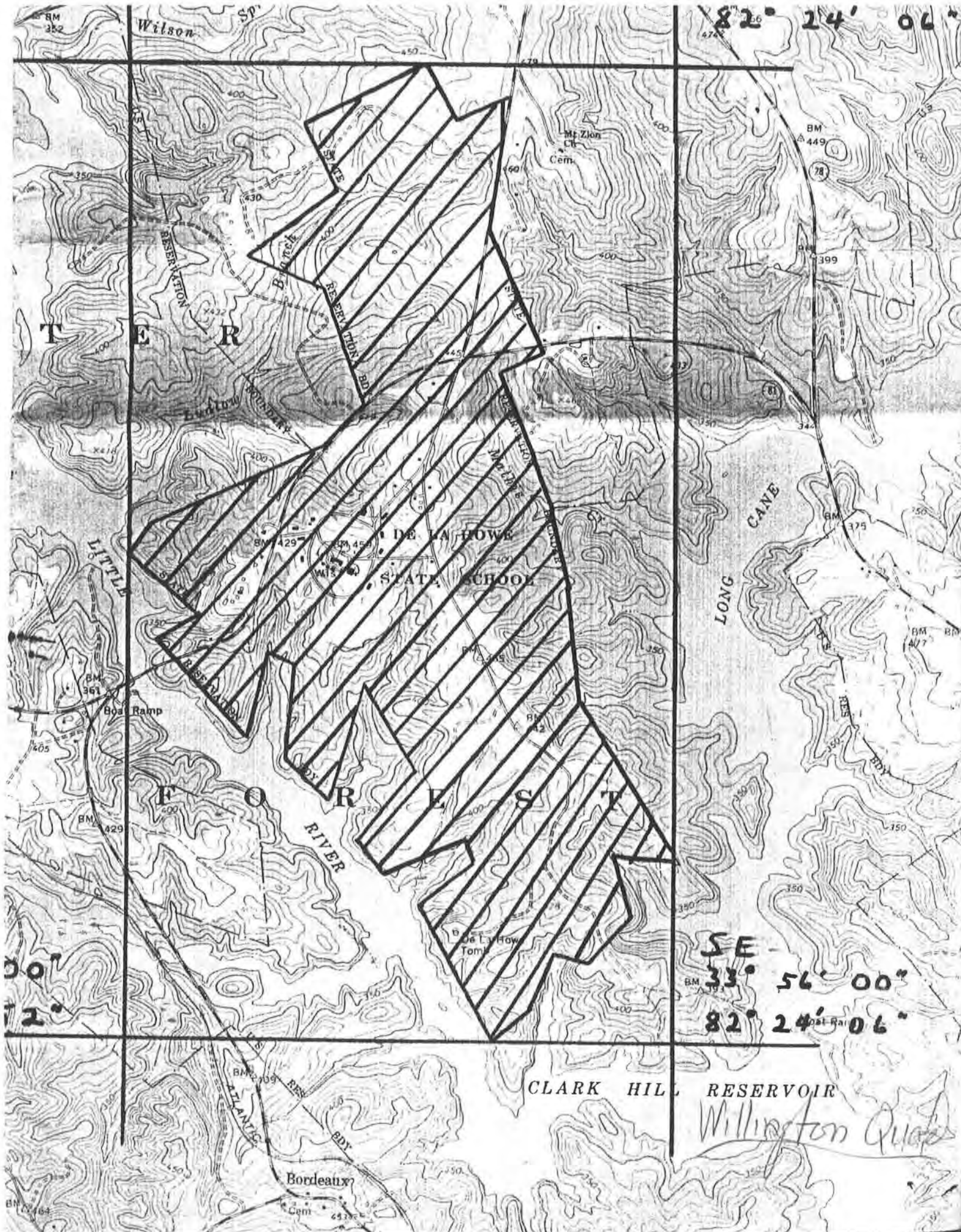
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-BR

JUN 17 1970

Hon. Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Thurmond:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in South Carolina and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Ernest F. Hollings and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Charles E. Lee, Director, State Archives Department, 1430 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) FRANK E. HARRISON

Acting DEPUTY Director

Enclosures

JUN 5 1970

Entered in the National Register _____

cc:

Mr. Charles E. Lee, Director, State Archives Department, 1430 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Duplicate letter sent to:
Hon. Ernest F. Hollings
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

SOUTH CAROLINA

State House, Grounds and Artifacts

Old Campus District,

University of South Carolina

Mills Building, State Hospital

Governor's Mansion

Rivers Bridge State Park

De la Howe State School

Frather's Bridge

Enter Springs Battleground Park

Rose Hill

Hamover House

Hunting Island State Park Lighthouse

Columbia, South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

Beaufort County, South Carolina

McCormick County, South Carolina

Oconee County, South Carolina

Orangeburg County, South Carolina

Union County, South Carolina

Clemson, South Carolina

Beaufort County, South Carolina

September 2, 1970

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service, Room 618
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

The South Carolina Board of Review, National Register of Historic Places, has approved the following nominations to the National Register. These nominations are for eleven state-owned properties which were submitted as advance nominations and are already listed on the Register.

1. University of South Carolina, Old Campus
District - Richland County
2. Rose Hill State Park - Union County
3. Rivers Bridge State Park - Bamberg County
4. Prather's Bridge - Oconee County
5. John De La Howe School - McCormick County
6. Hanover House - Pickens County
7. Hunting Island State Park - Beaufort County
8. South Carolina State House, Grounds and
Artifacts - Richland County
9. South Carolina Governor's Mansion - Richland
County
10. South Carolina State Hospital Mills
Building - Richland County
11. Eutaw Springs Battleground Park - Orangeburg
County

The South Carolina Board of Review has also considered and approved forty-one additional nominations which we will be sending to you shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Lee
State Liaison Officer

CEL/czf



March 27, 2017

Edson Beall
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Beall:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the nomination and listing letter for John De La Howe School in McCormick, South Carolina. By our records this property was among eleven state-owned properties that were listed in the National Register on June 5, 1970. According to correspondence received by our office in 2012, there was not a record of this property in the National Register files. I am here providing a copy of the original nomination and listing letter from 1970 so that the John De La Howe School can be properly recorded in the National Register.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at efoley@scdah.sc.gov.

Sincerely,



Ehren Foley
Historian and National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
8301 Parklane Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29223