

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: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 25 1974	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fairfield Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ^{N of} Five miles E of McClellanville on banks of the Santee River (danger of vandalism precludes more specific address)

CITY OR TOWN:
McClellanville

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) unoccupied

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Francis Pinckney Williams and heirs of M. M. Pinckney

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Dr. Richard Domanick, the Wedge Plantation

CITY OR TOWN:
McClellanville

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY:
1973

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

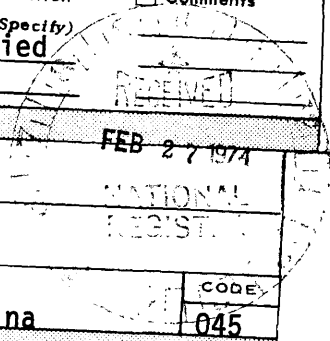
STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

Introduction: Fairfield Plantation was built by the Lynch family who owned much of the land along the banks of the South Santee River in South Carolina. The hard-burned brick of the basement foundation, the floor plan, and the Georgian motifs suggest a date of ca. 1730. An inscription etched in the mortar of one of the chimneys which reads, "January 27, 1766 -- completed," probably refers to the completion of the second floor additions and the new chimney added by Jacob Motte.

Exterior: Built of clapboards above a raised brick foundation, this two-story plantation house features central porches on the south and north elevations. Though not identical, both porches are pedimented and their roofs supported by six Doric columns, two of which are engaged. The south porch, on the river side, extends further out from the house than the north porch. It is supported by an arched brick foundation as opposed to the rectangular supports of the north porch. These porches, along with the small wings with parapets on the north side, were probably added by Thomas Pinckney at the end of the 18th Century.

Originally the house consisted of the four rooms on the first floor and just two above on the south side. It was squared out by the addition of two more rooms after Jacob Motte purchased the house. The five sided bay windows which consist of three 6/6 windows, and two narrow 2/2 windows on the side were added at the end of the 19th Century by Captain Thomas Pinckney.

The medium hipped roof is topped by two cross-shaped interior chimneys; the narrow cornice is embellished with simple diminutive brackets. The two stories are divided by a wider board which belts the corner moulding, making a distinct division between the higher first story and the shorter second. Two 9/9 windows flank each side of the entrance on the south side. Shorter 6/6 windows are placed just above these windows and the doorway on the second story. There are only two windows on the second story of the north elevation placed just inside of the bays. A small window is centered above the doorway under the roof of the porch.

The east and west side elevations are identical and consist of three windows on each story, their size proportionate to the height of the story.

Interior: The main floor consists of four rooms with the two identical rear rooms divided by a central hall containing the staircase. The front entrance leads into a large room on the left separated from the smaller right hand room by a single doorway. These front rooms have unusually high mantels with barrel-vaulted fireplaces situated on the back wall facing the front windows. The smaller room on right features dentil mouldings. A bathroom has been added to the left rear room.

The floor plan of the basement is identical to the main floor. The upper floor also consists of four rooms with the rear rooms divided by the stair-hall. All of these rooms are simple and contain no decorative elements, except for the unadorned fireplaces distinctive in their smallness.

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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. 1730, 1766

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 type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

Built ca. 1730, Fairfield Plantation is one of the oldest houses in the Santee River area of South Carolina. Notable as an excellent example of a wooden plantation house, Fairfield is also important as the home of South Carolinians of prominence in both political and military service.

Agriculture: Thomas Pinckney, an owner of Fairfield, was interested in agriculture and contributed numerous articles to the Southern Agriculturalist. Many of his agricultural experiments took place at Fairfield and focused on crop diversification, land reclamation, and agricultural engineering. When he built Eldorado Plantation, also on the Santee River, he gave Fairfield to his eldest son, Thomas.

Architecture: Fairfield Plantation is the earliest example of a large wooden plantation house in the Santee River area. It became a prototype for numerous other plantations in the Low Country of South Carolina during the 18th Century. Except for the late 19th Century bay windows, the house has maintained the integrity of a late 18th Century house for more than 200 years. The simple Georgian details and the well proportioned basement, porches, and windows make Fairfield one of the most notable plantations in this area.

Political: Jacob Motte and Thomas Pinckney, two distinguished figures in South Carolina politics, have both been owners of Fairfield Plantation. Jacob Motte, a wealthy merchant who acquired Fairfield shortly after his marriage to Rebecca Brewton in 1758, was the son of the Jacob Motte who was provincial treasurer of South Carolina from 1745 to 1770. Through the marriage of the Motte daughter Elizabeth to Thomas Pinckney in 1779, the plantation passed into the Pinckney family.

One of South Carolina's most dedicated statesmen and diplomats, Thomas Pinckney was born in Charleston and educated in law and the classics at Oxford, England. After 16 years abroad he returned to his native province to practice law. When the situation with the British became tense, he volunteered his services to the newly formed American Army. His ability to organize and train troops led to his promotion as major in 1778. In 1780 he commanded part of the defenses during the siege of Charleston and was one of the strongest opponents of surrendering to the British. After a distinguished military career he became active in political life and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charleston County Probate Court. Wills. Book 18, Book 38, Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century. Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1892.
 Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth. Life of General Thomas Pinckney. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1895.
 Rogers, George C., Jr. Charleston in the Age of the Pinckneys. Norman Oklahoma Press of the University of Oklahoma, 1969.
 Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. Plantations of the Carolina Low Country. Charleston: Carolina Art Association, 1964.

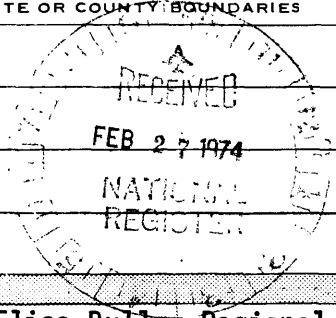
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33	10	56
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	79	24	17
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9.98 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Elias Bull - Regional Planner**
Florence Bacher Myers - Historic Preservation Division
 ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **January 7, 1974**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street**
 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
 Title: Historic Preservation Officer
S.C. Department of Archives and History
 Date: Feb 15, 1974

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

AR Mortensen
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/25/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/22/74

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
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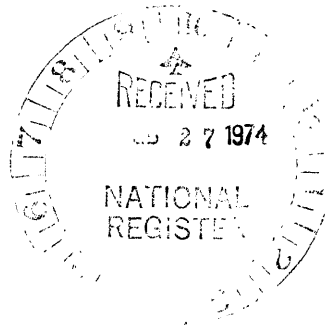
(Number all entries)

Fairfield Plantation

7. Description (continued)

Surroundings: Located on a bluff within a hundred yards of the Santee River, the house is beautifully situated in a grove of moss-covered live oak trees.

The only dependency is a pump house built in the 1920s.



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(Continuation Sheet)

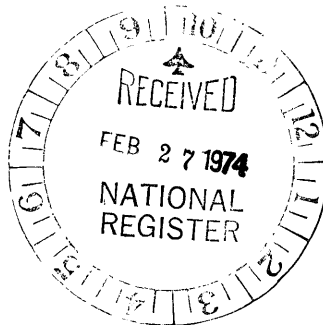
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(Number all entries)

Fairfield Plantation

8. Significance (cont.)

served as governor of South Carolina from 1787 to 1788. During the latter year he was president of the convention which ratified the Constitution. In 1791 Pinckney was a member of the House of Representatives. The following year Washington appointed him minister to England. Pinckney was sent to Spain in April 1795 to negotiate a treaty settling boundary disputes, to outline Spain's navigational rights in the United States, and to establish a court of claims for the United States against the Spanish. On October 27, 1795 the Spanish signed the treaty of San Lorenzo el Real. Successful, Pinckney moved back to London at the end of 1795, and a year later he returned to the United States. Upon his return he again became involved in domestic politics as a Federalist candidate for vice-president in 1796 but was defeated. The next year he was again elected to Congress and served until his voluntary retirement in March 1801. In the War of 1812 he was commissioned major-general and placed in command of the district extending from North Carolina to the Mississippi River. At the end of the Creek War he negotiated the treaty which concluded the peace. Thomas Pinckney was respected for his leadership, courage, and service to the nation during the critical years surrounding the early development of the United States.



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Fairfield Plantation

9. Bibliography (cont.)

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. New York:
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934. Vol. 14.

