

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

**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 Richmond Plantation

and/or common The Girl Scout Plantation

**2. Location**

street & number 15 miles east of Moncks Corner, S.C., on  
Route 402 *St. Johns Church* not for publication

city, town Cordesville  vicinity of congressional district First

state South Carolina code 045 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreation

**4. Owner of Property**

name Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council

street & number 2400 Air Park Road

city, town Charleston Heights  vicinity of state South Carolina 29405

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Court House

street & number Main Street

city, town Moncks Corner state South Carolina 29461

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of Historic Places  
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 type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Located in rural Berkeley County, South Carolina, Richmond Plantation contains a manor house and outbuildings constructed ca. 1927 as a hunting lodge for George A. Ellis. The manor house, designed by the New York City architectural firm of Clinton and Russell, is in the Shavian Manorial Style. The property also includes a cemetery and archeological features associated with an earlier eighteenth and nineteenth century rice plantation.

### Manor House

Exterior: The manor house at Richmond Plantation was designed by the New York City architectural firm of Clinton and Russell, and completed by ca. 1927. The blueprints are preserved on the plantation.

The manor house is a one and one-half story brick building, in the Shavian Manorial Style, as defined by the neo-medieval work of the English architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912). The building has a rectangular central mass, with two single story wings, each set at an angle of 15° north of the longitudinal axis of the central block.

The north elevation of the central block features a projecting entrance pavilion on its west end, and a smaller pavilion on its east end, with three casement windows between the two pavilions. The gable roof is slate, with a pitch specified at 45° in the blueprints, and is pierced on the north by three dormer windows with hip roofs. The entrance is distinguished by a brick flat arch over the door, with coursed slate key-stone and imposts. A metal gargoyle, depicting a winged and toothed fish, is set above this arch. The door itself, reportedly salvaged from a Charleston theatre, is vertical board and batten, with a Tudor arched top.

The east and west elevations of the central block feature massive brick chimneys, with coursed slate shoulderings, central to the gable ends. Iron masks, purportedly representing King Charles I of England in a grotesque grimace, are set on each chimney.

The south elevation of the central block features large bay windows at its east and west ends, with a set of large French doors central. Three large and two small dormer windows pierce the slate roof.

Brickwork is common bond. The bricks were reportedly salvaged from a Charleston theatre.

The west wing of Richmond Manor House is a one story, T-shaped brick wing with a slate roof. One octagonal and two rectangular chimneys accentuate the roofline. The west extremity of this wing has a hip-roofed porch, with heavy timber posts and brackets. Fenestration is irregular, with both casement and bay windows.

The east wing, like the west, is one story and T-shaped. This wing has a combination of hip and gable-on-hip roofs. A single octagonal chimney pierces the roof of this wing. Fenestration is irregular. A porch at the eastern end terminates the east wing.

Interior: The main block of Richmond Plantation Manor House was designed to receive select woodwork salvaged from unidentified English buildings. The entrance hall on the north elevation leads to a transverse hall, which runs the length of the central block on the north side. The two large rooms of the central block open to the south. The two wings are accessible from the hall at either end.

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 checked="" 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 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** ca. 1927

**Builder/Architect** Clinton and Russell

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Richmond Plantation, located in rural Berkeley County, South Carolina, includes a manor house and outbuildings constructed ca. 1927 as a hunting lodge for George A. Ellis and a cemetery and archeological features associated with an eighteenth and nineteenth century rice plantation. The manor house and outbuildings are historically important for their association with Ellis, a prominent New York financier. The Ellis complex is also significant as an example of the phenomenon of the purchase and development of nonproductive southern plantations by wealthy northerners in the years between 1890 and 1940. The manor house, designed by the architectural firm of Clinton and Russell, is architecturally significant as an example of the Shavian Manorial Style. Archeologically, the property contains significant features that should yield information important to the history of rice plantations in South Carolina.

Richmond Plantation was developed in the second half of the eighteenth century by John Harleston (1733-1793), a prominent lowcountry planter. Although Harleston owned other plantations, and residences in Charleston and in St. John Berkeley, Richmond became his principal seat. Before the Revolution Harleston represented the parish of St. John Berkeley in the Twenty-eighth Royal Assembly (1768), and after the outbreak of the conflict he represented the parish in the Third General Assembly (1779-1780).

Two watercolor paintings of the Harleston Plantation House at Richmond, executed by Charles Fraser in 1803, indicate a large two and one-half story building on a raised basement. Single story verandas, reached by broad flights of stairs, are located on two elevations. Two brick chimney stacks and at least one dormer pierced the pyramidal roof. Construction was apparently frame, with a brick basement.

After the death of Harleston in 1793 the plantation house is reputed to have passed to his daughter Jane Smith Harleston, who in 1794 married Edward Rutledge, Jr. Rutledge, a member of a leading lowcountry family, served in the Tenth (1792-1794), Eleventh (1794-1795), Twelfth (1796-1797), and Thirteenth (1798-1799) South Carolina General Assemblies.

In the mid-nineteenth century the plantation house was the home of Sarah Harleston Huger, a granddaughter of John Harleston, and her husband, Dr. Benjamin Huger, who was considered "one of the most diligent planters on the river." Around 1900 the house burned.

After passing through various owners, the plantation was purchased by George A. Ellis of New York City in the 1920's. Ellis was one of numerous wealthy northerners, such as Mr. and Mrs. Archer Huntington (Laurel Hill, Springfield, Brookgreen, the Oaks), Jesse Metcalf (Bates Hill, Glenmore, Holly Grove, Hasty Point, Breakwater, Belle Rive), and Walker Inman (Greenfield), who bought nonproductive South Carolina plantations in the years between 1890 and 1940 and established seasonal homes on the vast tracts. Ellis was a co-founder in 1904 of E. F. Hutton and Company, one of the principal member firms of the New York Stock Exchange. Mrs. Ellis, the former Florence Adams, was the daughter of Thomas Adams, chewing gum manufacturer. Interested in hunting and horsebreeding,

Continued

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 152.4

Quadrangle name Huger, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 7	6 0 6 7 0 0	3 6 6 1 0 6 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 7	6 0 7 1 6 0	3 6 6 0 4 4 1
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 7	6 0 6 1 6 5	3 6 5 9 7 2 0
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D	1 7	6 0 5 7 6 0	3 6 6 0 3 9 0
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Richmond Plantation nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax map of Berkeley County entitled "T.M.S. No. 214-CO-00-001" and drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings, structures, and sites.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Historical Programs Section

Mrs. Betty Morgan, President  
Carolina Low Country Girl Scout  
Council

organization South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History date July 29, 1980

street & number P.O. 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

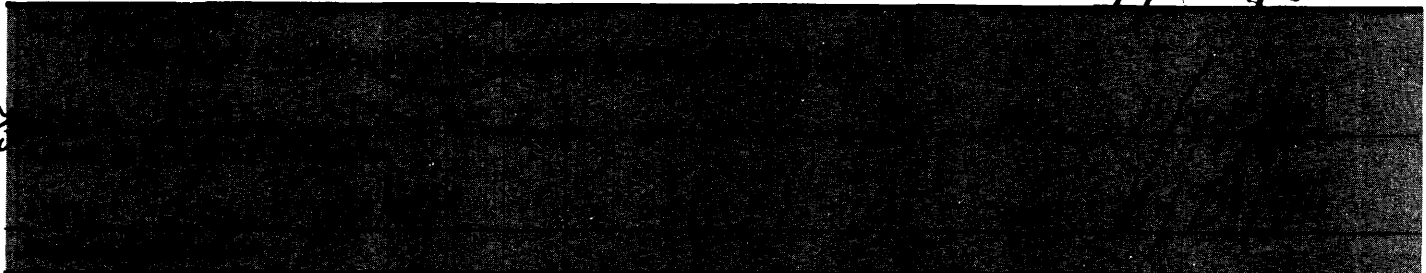
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Charles E. Lee

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/25/80



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The living room, the largest room in the house, features 3/4 height paneled wainscoting, plaster walls above, and an exposed-beam ceiling. The blueprints specify "old wood" to be used for the ceiling beams. A stone mantelpiece with Gothic cusped arches, reportedly salvaged from England, dominates the room from the west end.

The dining room has Georgian woodwork, with room-height wainscoting on its east wall and quarter-height wainscoting elsewhere. The east wall features coved cupboard recesses on either side of the fireplace, which has a marble fire surround. The wooden mantelpiece has a full classical architrave resting on crossettes, with a carved frieze featuring foliated arabesques and a central eagle. Doors in this room have similar architraves, with foliated friezes. The edges of the door stiles and rails feature carved foliage patterns.

The second floor, reached by an open-well, U-shaped staircase, consists of several lesser bedrooms, as well as storage areas. Ornamentation is minimal.

The west wing of Richmond Plantation Manor House contains the library, the three principal bedrooms of the Ellis family, and the associated dressing rooms, closets, and baths. The library is paneled with three-quarter height wainscoting, and features a stone mantelpiece of English Tudor design, reportedly salvaged from an English castle.

The east wing contains the kitchen, the servants' quarters, and the stairway to the basement. The Ellis' wine cellar was located under this wing.

Floors throughout the manor house are of oak, except for the kitchen and the main hallway, where octagonal quarry tile is used. The major floor spans are reinforced with steel girders.

Alterations to the manor house have been minimal. A fire escape has been added to the southwest corner of the central block, ca. 1975. One room in the east wing has been partitioned to create two rooms.

Outbuildings: The nominated property includes four outbuildings also in the Shavian Manorial style and constructed at the same time as the manor house. Numerous other structures, some predating the Ellises, are also included.

The carriage house consists of two buildings on either side of a walled courtyard. The building is of brick, one story, with a gable-on-hip slate roof. A dovecote stands on the roof ridge. The front building, which was designed as a generator/well house and the gatekeeper's residence, has an entrance pavilion with a cross-gable. An iron mask, identical to the masks displayed on the chimneys of the manor house, is centered on the gable end. The second building, on the other side of the courtyard, housed numerous carriages.

The dog house is a one story brick building, with a slate gable-on-hip roof. The building is designed to house fifteen dogs in private kennels. An interior chimney has coursed slate shouldering. A casement window on the south side of the building has a set of linenfold-carved shutters.

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The guest house is a one story brick building with a slate gable roof. Two exterior end chimneys have coursed slate shoulderings. The building is currently used by the Girl Scouts as a "brownie bungalow."

The gate house is a one story brick residence, with a slate gable on hip roof. The building has a central brick chimney with coursed slate shoulderings. The house is used as the plantations manager's residence.

A one story log house on the property was reportedly built by the Ellises. This building has two end chimneys, a shed-roofed front porch, and casement windows. A formal garden, with pierced brick walls and wrought-iron gates, also dates from the Ellis period. Mrs. George A. Ellis raised camillias in this garden.

Three one-story frame cabins on the property apparently predate the Ellises. These cabins, known as Riverview, Hilltop, and Stono, are weatherboarded, with brick foundation piers and brick chimneys. Non-historic buildings on the property include the Girl Scout Dining Hall, a horse stable, and several shower houses, necessary houses and sheds.

Cemetery: The Harleston-Rutledge cemetery predates the Ellises. This cemetery contains nine gravestones, including that of John Harleston, the original developer of the plantation, within its brick walls. Two wrought iron gates permit entry. The legible stones date from 1793 to 1851. The stonecutters include R. White of Charleston. A brick well and a brick-lined square pit, reportedly an indigo vat, also date from the Harleston-Rutledge period.

Archeological Features: In addition to outbuildings, there are a number of archeological features associated with the original Richmond Plantation. These include the site of the Richmond Plantation House, which burned around 1900, foundations from what probably is an early rice mill, earthworks associated with rice cultivation, old ricefields and trunks, and the sites of the plantation's slave dwellings. The latter are represented by abundant artifactual remains, as is the site of the original plantation house. It is expected that buried remains from other outbuildings and features associated with the earlier rice plantation are also present.

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the Ellises established a hunting lodge at Richmond. Besides the manor house, completed ca. 1927, they constructed a paddock and stable, dog kennels, and numerous other outbuildings. Also the owners of estates in Virginia and New York, the Ellises spent several months of each winter at Richmond Plantation. After the death of Mrs. Ellis in 1956 the plantation was purchased by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. In 1963 the company sold approximately 153 acres, including the manor house, to the Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council. Presently, the Girl Scouts maintain the property as a camp.

Architecture: The Richmond Plantation Manor House, designed by the New York City architectural firm of Clinton and Russell ca. 1925, is an American interpretation of the Shavian Manorial Style, a style defined by the neo-medieval work of the English architect Richard Norman Shaw. The style is characterized by the high-pitched slate roof and the broad brick chimney stacks, which dominate the low masonry mass of the building. The asymmetrical plan, the casement windows, and the heavy timber framing of the porches contribute to the medieval nature of the style. The desire to incorporate the ancient paneling and mantels into the new building may have predicated the choice of style.

Richmond Plantation Manor House is also significant for the high quality of the craftsmanship, as demonstrated by the gauged flat arches with their coursed slate keystones, the coursed slate shoulderings in the chimney stacks, and the incorporation of ancient architectural elements in the newer building. The stylistic and compositional relationship of the manor house and its outbuildings is also significant.

Archeology: Based on field observation of archeological features, such as the original Richmond Plantation House site or the site of the plantation's slave dwellings, and on an inspection of some of the artifacts recovered from these features, it is clear that useful information about past life on Richmond Plantation can be recovered. Generally, the research domains to which this information should apply involve social and economic structure on an early rice plantation and the functional aspects of operating such a plantation. Study of variations in the material well-being (including diet) between and among planters, overseers and slaves or an examination of the nature of the plantation's material culture, such as its irrigation system, rice mill or simply its tool inventory, are among the more specific topics that might be addressed.

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