

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

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

For NCAS use only
received DEC 22 1981
date entered JAN 21 1982

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

1. Name

historic Allen Dial House

and/or common The Valley; Cedar Valley Farms

2. Location

SR 729

street & number South side of county road 729, about 3/4 miles from S.C. Highway 252. not for publication

city, town Laurens vic. vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state South Carolina code 045 county Laurens code 059

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. C. Carrington Herbert

street & number Route 3

city, town Laurens vicinity of state South Carolina 29360

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Laurens County Courthouse

street & number Laurens Public Square

city, town Laurens state South Carolina 29360

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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

The Allen Dial House is located in rural Laurens County about six miles west of the town of Laurens. The vernacular Greek Revival cottage is reputed to have been built ca. 1855 by Allen Dial. In a form sometimes called a raised cottage, it is built on a high stuccoed masonry foundation, which forms the basement story.

The rectangular, one and one-half story Allen Dial House is sheathed in narrow width weatherboard with flush board under the front and rear porticos. The medium pitched, metal-covered gable roof has two interior ridge line chimneys. Each gable has one large centrally placed tripartite window flanked by two smaller windows. The east gable has a square louvered vent placed high in its apex. A boxed cornice with return encloses the gable and extends around the roofline. Fenestration on the main story is identical on all elevations; each elevation has four six-over-six double-hung windows in evenly spaced bays. All windows are surmounted by an architrave with corner blocks and flanked by louvered shutters. Fenestration in the basement level is irregular.

The facade (north elevation) has as its central feature a pedimented portico supported by four paired and fluted pillars. The side pilasters are joined to the pillars by a decorative wooden balustrade. The portico tympanum has a fanlight style lunette. The entrance has double leaf paneled doors. The door surround is composed of a pilastered ornamental architrave with decorative corner blocks and features an unusual grid designed glass and molding transom and sidelights.

The rear (south) elevation has a portico similar to that on the front except there is no lunette in the pediment. A cupola with a farm bell sits astride the gable ridge of the portico. A new brick chimney stands to the east of the portico.

A rectangular one story outbuilding, originally a kitchen, stands about six feet to the west of the house. A new roof has been extended to meet the main house and the intervening space filled in at the front.

Interior:

The Allen Dial House has a wide central hall with four rooms floor plan. A kitchen and dining room are in the west side of the basement story. Pine flooring from the attic was removed, planed, and used to panel the dining room in renovations done in the 1930s. The east side of the basement, originally open, has been enclosed all around and partially excavated to form an additional room. The low ceilings of the basement level contrast with the high (greater than eight feet) ceilings on the main story. There are two bedrooms in the attic half-story, through the center of which the stuccoed chimney stacks pass. Fireplaces have pilastered and entablatured mantels and main story door frames are embellished after the manner of the exterior door surround.

Surroundings:

The Allen Dial House is situated in a rural locale surrounded by farm and woodlands. A log building, reputedly contemporary with the house, stands at its southwest side. The grounds are formally landscaped with large boxwood plantings.

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 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 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 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 about six miles west of the town of Laurens in rural Laurens County, the Allen Dial House is a vernacular Greek Revival cottage. Reputed to have been built ca. 1855, it was constructed to maximize light and ventilation. Its architectural worth lies in its representational value, being the best example of its type in Laurens County.

Allen Dial (1811-1894), grandson of early Laurens County pioneers, was a successful farmer, a self-taught doctor, and a leader in the Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church. Although he and his second wife Louisa Barksdale Dial had no children, they reared Mrs. Dial's nephew William N. Austin as their own. At his death Allen Dial willed his house and land to his wife who, in 1909, deeded it to her nephew W. N. Austin. Austin sold to William Maxie Thomason in 1920 whose widow sold to Dr. Ellis B. Gray (a Dial descendant) in 1937. Dr. Gray made sensitive restorations to the deteriorated property. The present owners, the Carrington Herberts, acquired title to the house and 523 surrounding acres in 1950. It is presently a working farm.

Architecture:

The Allen Dial House is the best example of mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival cottage architecture in Laurens County. It is a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style, translating the design to suit upcountry climate, building materials, and methods.

The deliberately elevated first story, the wide central hall with double leaf doors front and back, four-windowed rooms with high ceilings on the first floors, and large tripartite windows in the attic story gables instead of the more usual dormers show an intelligent adaptation of design to warm summer weather conditions. At the same time, the scale of room size is kept small enough to achieve maximum use of fireplace heat in winter. Simple pole rafters planed on one side to accommodate sheathing and the use of heartpine, oak, and poplar cut from the surrounding acres indicate local adaptation of building methods and use of native materials.

Attempts at decoration such as the fanlight lunette in the portico pediment, fluted pillars, and the interesting glasswork in the entrance transom and sidelights lift the Allen Dial House above the average for its type. The formally landscaped boxwood garden is a further refinement of the Greek Revival style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2.6 acres

Quadrangle name Laurens South, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

117	391881510	31811531715
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

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 Allen Dial House nomination is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying Laurens County tax map no. 233, which is drawn at a scale of 330 feet to the inch. The property nominated includes all significant buildings and structures.

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 Rebecca Starr

organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History date

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 (r)

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/1/81

For HCRS use only

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

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 1/21/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

Published Sources:

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Dial, Rebecca. True to His Colors. New York: Vantage Press, 1974. p. 20.

Motes, Libby "Carrington Herberts Enjoy Living in 112-year-old Colonial Home." Laurens (S. C.) Advertiser, 8 December 1965.

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Columbia, S. C. University of South Carolina. South Caroliniana Library. Minutes: Baptist Church of Christ at Chesnut (sic) Ridge Meeting House 1817-1856, pp. 278-279.

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