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	Stateburg				San Language	est of	Sumt	APPLICATION
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<b>F</b>	South Carolina		45	Sumter			08	$\neg$
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	(Check One)		1			<del> </del>	E PUBL	IC.
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-	OWNER OF PROPERTY							
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CONDITION		(Check Or	1e)		(Che	eck One)	
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House of buff pise de terre (rammed earth) on rising knoll has two-story frame center section with hipped roof and one-story gable wing on either side. Built c. 1758, originally was probably one room deep with cellar, one big or two smaller rooms and hall on first floor, two bedrooms and small hall on second floor, large chimney at either end. May have been used as tavern. In 1809 frame wings added; replaced 1821 by present wings of pise de terre. Other 1821 additions: colonnaded one-story back porch with two bedrooms above, second-story porch on front. Also number of pise de terre dependencies: two-roomed library with hipped roof and Tuscan colonade on all four sides, dry well, doctor's office with temple front and fourceolumns, loom house, summer kitchen and dairy. Latter three buildings retain much original equipment.

Roof of house has no ridge poles; A-frame rafters are supported only by roof sheathing boards, to which cypress shingles are attached (now covered by tin roof). House beams are heart pine, some 50 feet long, adze-hewn and pegged. Lathes on inside of pisé de terre walls are hand-hewn and secured with three-inch hand-forged square- topped nails. Base coat of plaster over lathes mixed with binding of rabbit fur.

Interior: extensive medical library and medical implements of the two doctors who have inhabited it. Also many books, some from 17th and 18th centuries, and collection of indentures, land grants, and military commissions signed by various presidents, some dating to colonial times. Other important items include letters from such men as Thomas Sumter and Robert E. Lee, antique furniture from various eras, including sideboard showing, it is said, bayonet thrusts of Union soldiers; John Singleton Copley's portrait of Mary Heron Hooper (1783), Sir Godfrey Kneller's paintings of Colonel Patrick Heron and Ann Vining (1711), and a Bartolozzi engraving of Lady Cicely Heron.

The house had no plumbing until about 1916, and no electricity until the late 1920s. Many of the old lamps have been wired but, with three exceptions, all hanging fixtures were installed in the 1960s. They are all antique and replaced naked light bulbs.

The house and grounds are maintained in excellent condition. In addition to dependencies listed above, one slave cabin—the cook's quarters—also remains. Parts of a pre-Revolutionary garden still exist at the rear of the house.

SIC	SNIFICANCE			
F	PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
	Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🛣 18th Centu	ury 🛣 20th Century
	☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Cent	ury
s	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) C.1	758	
	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	ck One or More as Approp	riate)	11817
	Abor iginal	Education	★ Political	Urban Planning
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	Commerce		itarian	(3)
-	Communications	■ Military	Theater	
	▼ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	S. Trail

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural Significance: The Borough House, Stateburg's oldest extant building, constructed on land granted to William Hilton in 1758, is significant architecturally because it and its dependencies form the largest complex in the United States of pisé de terre (rammed earth) buildings. This material, a Spanish and French type of construction, is essentially hand-poured clay. Borough House interior is finished with plastered wooden studding and lathes, exterior with cement pebble-dash wash made partially from blackstrap molasses. Walls constructed from pisé de terre (minimum depth of 13 inches) are almost impervious to earthquakes—they may crack but will not collapse.

Military Significance: According to tradition the Borough House served as headquarters for General Cornwallis in 1780 while he established a series of forts in the Wateree Valley. General Nathanael Greene and some Continental Army soldiers occupied the house in 1781, as initials "CA" burned on front doors and name of nearby Greene's Spring testify. Three sons of the Anderson family served Confederacy as major, captain and lieutenant general. Political Significance: The Borough House was and still is the most prominent house in Stateburg, a village whose name derived from its roll in the political development of the state. When the 1786 South Carolina legislature was considering a central state location for the new capital which upcountry South Carolinians were demanding, General Thomas Sumter, member of the delegation from Sumter county, heavily promoted his own village and even went so far as to change its name from Claremont to Stateburg. The Borough House extended its hospitality to travelers journeying on nearby King's Highway, main transportation link between Charleston and Camden.

Scientific Significance: Dr. William W. Anderson, who redesigned the house in 1821, performed the first successful operation for removal of cancer of the jawbone here in 1829. His rare University of Edinburgh Medical Library remains in house. His close friend, statesman and scientist Joel Poinsett, died here and is buried at Church of the Holy Cross nearby.

Date

Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		
South Carolina		
COUNTY		
Sumter		
FOR NPS USE C	NLY	
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(Number all entries)

#### 2. LOCATION

The complex of buildings being nominated includes the main house, doctor's office, loom house, library, dry well, combination dairy and summer kitchen building and one slave cabin—the cook's quarters. All dependencies are arranged in a tight nucleus around main house.

The Stateburg School and Wayman Chapel and Cemetery are not part of the Borough House Plantation nomination and are not included on the enclosed map.



Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		
South Carolina		
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#### 5.LOCATION OF EARLY LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Grant to William Hilton, Royal Grants. Vol. 8.

Register of Deeds, Charleston. Deed from William Bracey to Adam Fowler Brisbane, <u>Deed Book</u>.

The Borough House. Various deeds and grants.



Form 10-300o (Dec. 1968)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

THE BOROUGH HOUSE PLANTATION

<u>Educational Significance</u>: The library building of the Borough House once served as a schoolhouse and now houses a unique collection of textbooks used by several generations of children who were taught there.

Agricultural Significance: Mary Virginia Saunders White, Borough House owner from the early 1900s until 1959, established on this plantation the first tree farm in South Carolina, gradually reforesting land formerly devoted to cotton.

Conservation Significance: see above Agricultural Significance.

Literature and Art: Mary Virginia Saunders White published a book entitled Fifteen Letters of Nathaniel Sumter, written from information found in the family archives. Rare books in the Borough House collection include the University of Edinburgh Medical Library, an extensive selection of textbooks, antique books dating from the 1700s. Works of art by such noted painters as John Singleton Copley, Sir Godfrey Kneller and Bartolozzi are on display.

Landscape Architecture: Terraced gardens, in formal English patterns, were laid out in late 1700s by Mary Hooper, whose brother-in-law, William Hooper, signed the Declaration of Independence for North Carolina. One-fourth of original gardens, which have unusual variety of old roses, maintained today. Magnificent live oaks and enormous crapemyrtles line driveway. Some other oaks on grounds were planted in the 1930s from acorns from Heron property in Scotland, owned by relatives of Mrs. Hooper.

