

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0686433

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 19 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1978

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 Rip Raps Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER South Carolina Highway #378

CITY, TOWN

Sumter

VICINITY OF

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#5

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Sumter

CODE

085

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. James McBride Dabbs

STREET & NUMBER Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Mayesville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sumter County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Sumter

STATE

South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 (update)  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED (Minor)

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in rural Sumter County, South Carolina, Rip Raps Plantation was constructed in 1858 by James McBride, a prominent planter. Representative of a vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival design, Rip Raps' most notable architectural feature is its use of matching porticos on its north and south facades.

Rip Raps is a two-story clapboard residence, set on brick piers. Rectangular in shape, it measures 55' by 85'. On both the north and south facades, the house is characterized by a full width two-story pedimented portico supported by six paneled piers. Each symmetrical facade is divided into five bays. Each main entrance consists of a doubled paneled door with sidelights and transom, which is centered in the facade. The house features a plain box cornice which is repeated in the pediments and cross gable ends. Each pedimented gable contains a 9/9 sash window with sidelights. Fenestration throughout the remainder of the house is 6/6 and flanked by louvered shutters. Double central chimneys rising from the roof ridge add to the symmetry of design.

INTERIOR: The interior of Rip Raps is simple and unadorned. The main entrance leads to a large central hall which is 12 feet wide and runs the entire length of the house. The hall is flanked on each side by three rooms each of which measures 20' x 20'. Each of these rooms features a chair rail and fireplaces centered in the partition wall between the rooms. The second floor repeats the plan of the first floor.

The central hall of both floors is characterized by a paneled wainscot. Ceiling and walls are of plaster. The first floor features plaster ceiling medallions in each room. Floors throughout are original and all woodwork retains the original hand painted graining. Architectural alterations to the property have been minimal, consisting primarily of the addition of bathrooms and a kitchen.

SURROUNDINGS: The area nominated to the National Register includes those key elements which were historically associated with the Rip Raps Plantation. Structures included within the nominated plantation complex are a circa 1830 structure believed to have been a carriage house, measuring 20' by 30' and constructed of beaded clapboard; a smokehouse, circa 1830, measuring approximately 15' by 20' and constructed of shaped logs; and a barn, circa 1830, constructed of beaded clapboard. Also located within the nominated acreage is the 3/4 mile carriage lane; remains of the plantation mill dam and lake; and the remains of the plantation's rice field and irrigation ditches fed by the mill lake. As these elements represent an attempt to transplant the low country rice culture to the midlands area, they have been included within the area of Rip Raps Plantation complex nominated to the National Register.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" 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/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 checked="" 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                      1858                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      James McBride

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rip Raps Plantation, built in 1858, is significant architecturally as an example of vernacular Greek Revival design; for its association with individuals prominent in the development of Sumter County; and for its association with James McBride Dabbs (1896-1970), a regional author. According to a grant located at Rip Raps, the tract of land on which Rip Raps is located was originally granted to Peter Melet by the King of England in 1750, thus making the property among the earliest homesites in Sumter County. By the early 1820s, the plantation became the property of Samuel McBride, a prosperous planter, who expanded the Rip Raps Plantation to approximately 10,000 acres, building a new house, mill, dam and irrigation system for the cultivation of rice. As Samuel McBride's wealth increased, he exercised considerable influence in the community and the Salem Black River Church (nominated to National Register 1978), where he served as trustee and elder.

Upon the death of Samuel McBride in 1850, the plantation passed to his son, James, who was also a planter. It was James McBride who built the present Rip Raps home in 1858. In 1915, the property passed to James McBride's grandson, James McBride Dabbs. A prominent author and lecturer, James McBride Dabbs made Rip Raps his home until his death in 1970. The property still remains in the McBride-Dabbs family.

AGRICULTURE: Included in the nominated acreage are the remains of the plantation's mill dam, pond, and irrigation system for the rice fields developed by Samuel McBride. This system represents evidences of an attempt to transplant the low country rice culture to the midlands area of the state.

ARCHITECTURE: The house is an example of the vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival architecture. Unusual in its use of twin facades, the house retains much of the original design elements with its emphasis on symmetry characteristic of the style.

In addition to the main house, the property contains a circa 1830 log smokehouse; a circa 1830 structure said to have been a two-story carriage house, notable for its use of beaded clapboard; and a barn believed to have been built from the remains of the earlier home of Samuel McBride.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN -

LITERATURE: James McBride Dabbs (1896-1970) has been recognized nationally for his writings on the southern culture and race relations. Mr. Dabbs published more than one hundred articles in journals of national or regional scope. His book The Southern Heritage (1958) was awarded the Brotherhood Award by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Council on Human Relations; President of the Southern Regional Council; and member of the Board of Trustees, Penn Community Services.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dabbs, Edith. "Rip Raps." Unpublished manuscript. 13p.

DuBose, Louise Jones, ed. South Carolina Lives. Hopkinsville, Kentucky: Historical Association, 1963, p. 134.

continued.....

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

See Continuation Sheet  
for Longitude & Latitude

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 215 acres more or less

QUADRANGLE NAME Mayesville, South Carolina

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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D 

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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

The nominated property is bounded on the north by S.C. Highway #378. On the west continued.....

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

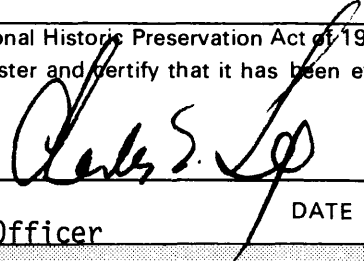
NAME / TITLE Julie Burr W. Wayne Gray  
Historic Preservation Division Santee-Lynches Council of Governments  
 ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE August 15, 1978  
 STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station TELEPHONE (803) 758-5816  
 CITY OR TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

# 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 National Park Service.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  
 TITLE Charles E. Lee DATE 10/10/78  
State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
APPROVED:	<u>Ann H. Gilmore</u>	DATE <u>12-12-78</u>
TEST:	<u>Ann H. Gilmore</u>	DATE <u>12/3/78</u>
<b>CHIEF OF REGISTRATION</b>		

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974. p. 259.

Interviews with Mrs. James McBride Dabbs, June 1978.

Moulton, Brenda Shipley, project chairman. Sumter County Historical Vignettes. Sumter: Sumter County Tricentennial Committee, 1970. n.p.

Nicholes, Cassie. Historical Sketches of Sumter County. Sumter: Sumter County Historical Commission, 1975. pp. 144-145, 228-230.

Utsey, Walter Scott. Who's Who in South Carolina. Columbia: Current Historical Commission. p. 117.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

the boundary runs parallel to the Plantation's carriage lane, at a distance of 500 feet from the center line of the lane, until it intersects with a small stream approximately one mile south of Highway #378. At this point, the boundary runs in a southeasterly direction along the stream until it reaches a point approximately one-half mile from the western boundary. At this point, the boundary runs in a northeasterly direction parallel to the western boundary for a distance of approximately one-half mile. At this point, the boundary runs in a northwesterly direction until it reaches a point 500 feet east of the center line of the carriage lane. The boundary then follows the carriage lane northward until it intersects with S. C. Highway #378.

With the exception of its northern boundary on S. C. Highway #378, the nominated acreage is bounded on all sides by property belonging to Mrs. James McBride Dabbs.

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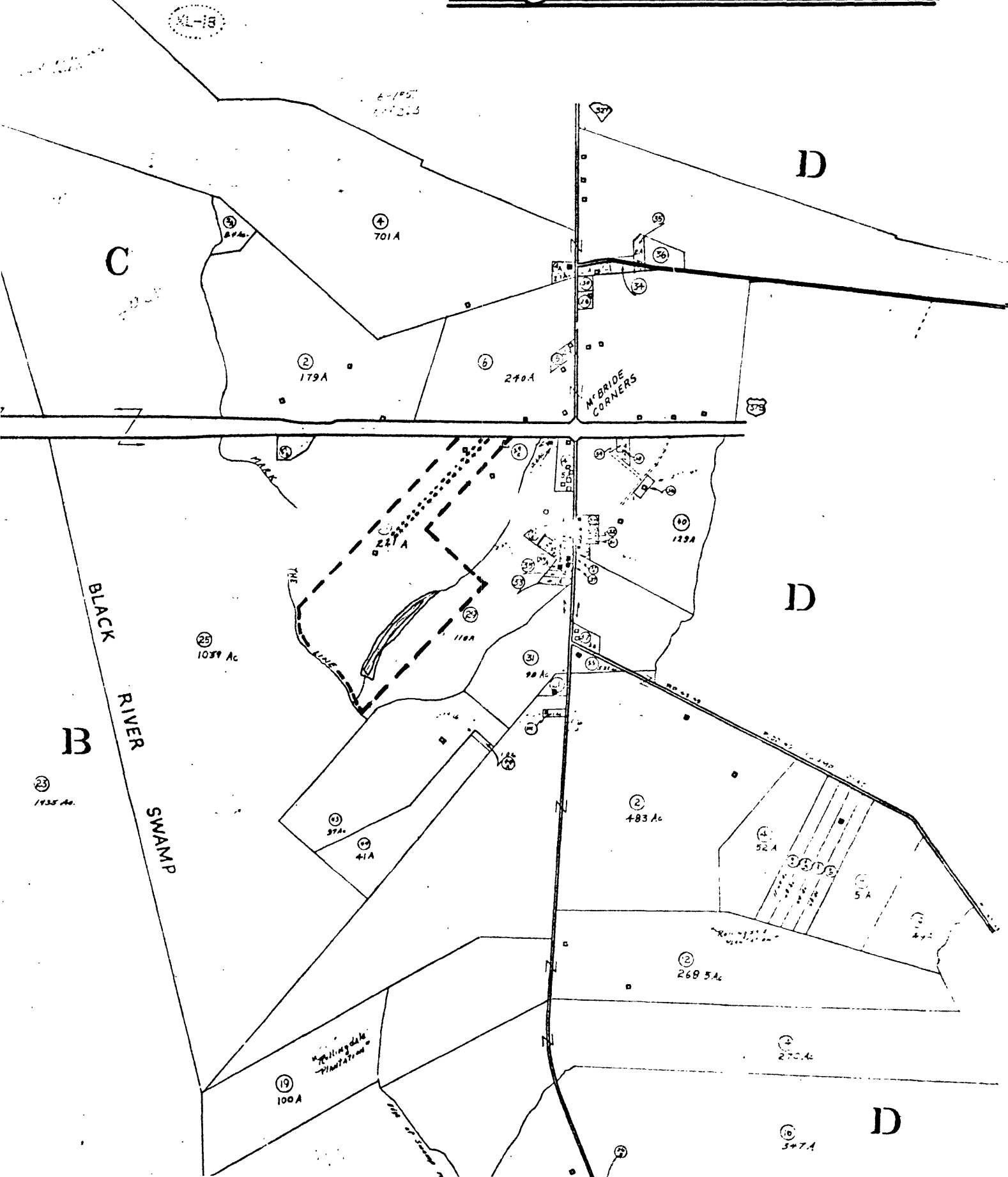
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

Longitude and Latitude

- A. N33<sup>k</sup> - 54' - 30"  
W80<sup>c</sup> - 08' - 55"
- B. N33<sup>o</sup> - 54' - 18"  
W80<sup>o</sup> - 08' - 25"
- C. N33<sup>c</sup> - 53' - 24"  
W80<sup>a</sup> - 09' - 06"
- D. N33<sup>o</sup> - 53' - 37"  
W80<sup>a</sup> - 09' - 32"

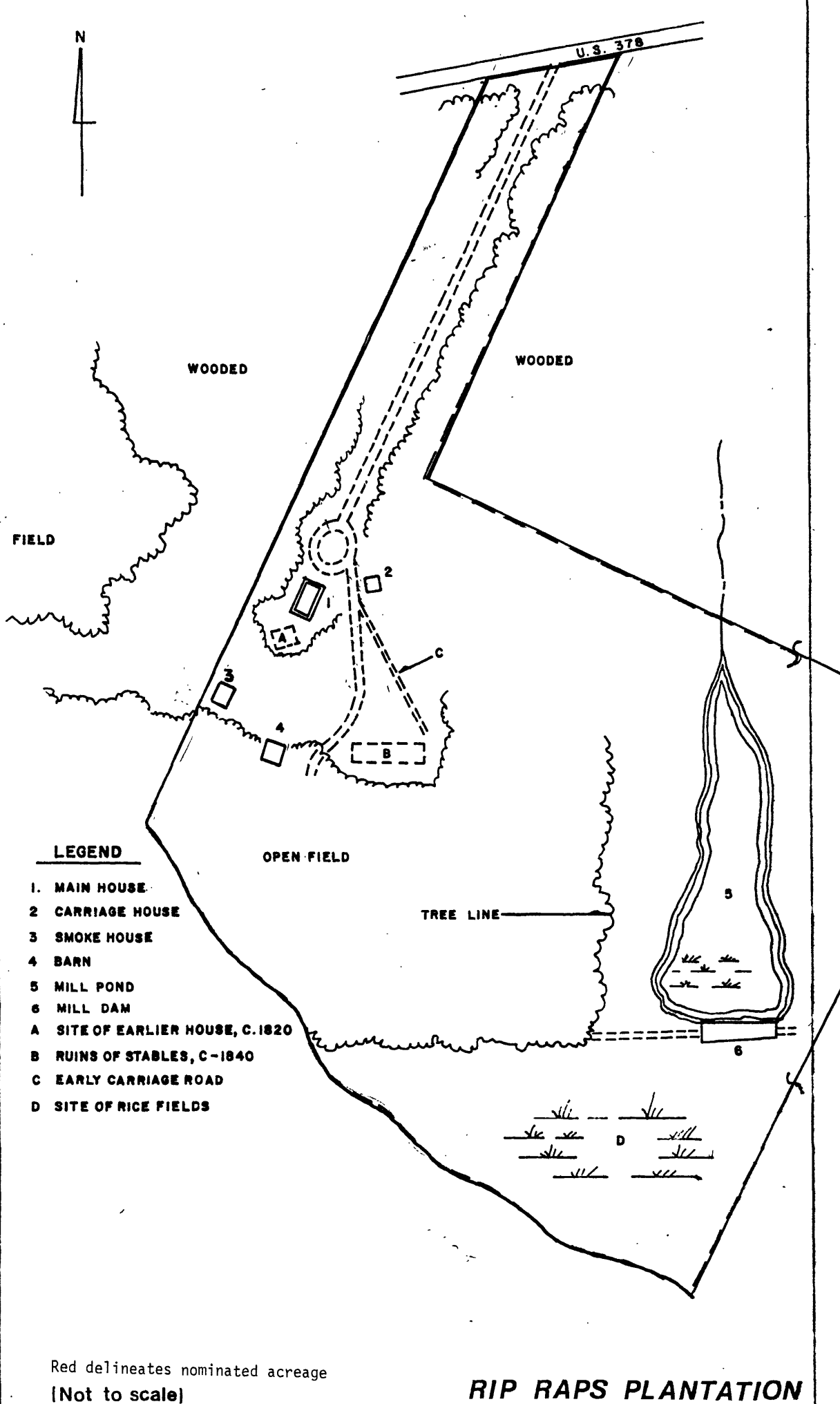
Acreege of Nominated Property: c. 215





DEC 13 1970

Supplemental Enclosure **OCT 19 1970**  
Plat of Rip Raps Plantation  
indicating the nominated acreage.  
Santee-Lynches Council of Govts.



Red delineates nominated acreage  
 (Not to scale)

**RIP RAPS PLANTATION**

RECEIVED

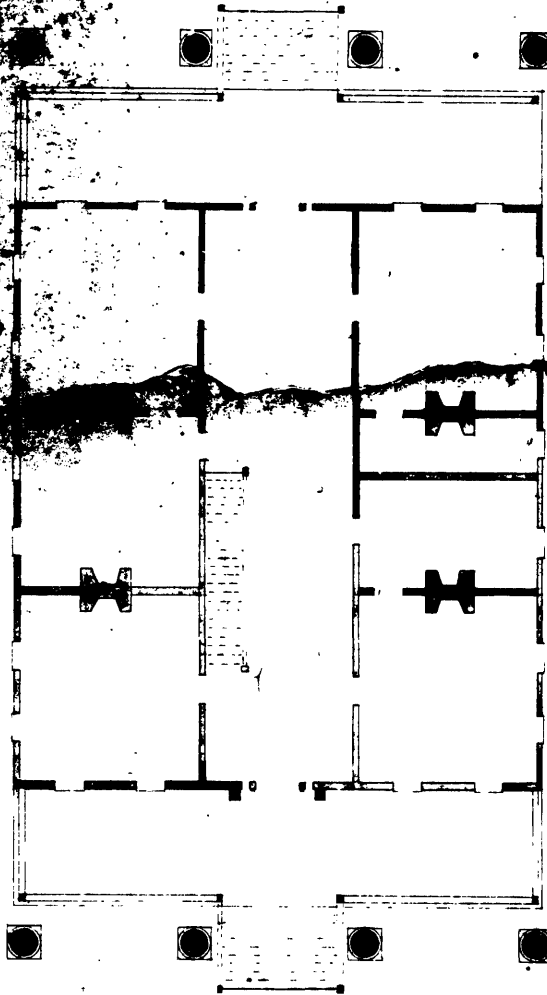
AUG 17 1978

S. C. DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Supplemental Enclosure  
Sketch Map of Rip Raps Plantation  
Sumter County, South Carolina  
Drawn by Santee- Lynches Council  
of Governments June 1978  
OCT 19 1978

NOT TO SCALE  
PLEASE NOTE: THE BOUNDARY OF THE  
NOMINATED AREA EXTENDS SLIGHTLY  
OFF OF THE EDGE OF THIS SKETCH &  
IS DELINEATED IN RED.

DEC 18 1978



*Ground Plan.*



*Side Elevation.*



*Front Elevation.*

"RIP RAPS"

Original blue-print of the plantation home built by James McBride at the age of eighteen just prior to his marriage on February 22, 1839, to Sophronia Adams Warren, two years his senior.

He named the house in memory of a happy boyhood trip to visit relatives in the north. On the way home his party had camped one night beside the Rip Raps River, a small mountain stream in Virginia. After his house was completed and he heard the rain rushing down the long gutters, he was reminded of

the night he had slept to the music of the little river gurgling and splashing over the rocks.

James died in 1864 leaving a small daughter, Maude, and an infant son, Guy. His widow, who never remarried, lived here until her death in 1918. Guy died a bachelor and Maude married Eugene Whitefield Dabbs. To their second son, James McBride Dabbs, his grandmother left her home, Rip Raps.

At one time, Rip Raps Plantation comprised 10,000 acres.

Supplemental Enclosure **OCT 19 1978**  
Architectural plans for Rip Raps  
Plantation. In possession of  
Mrs. James McBride Dabbs. Note:  
These preliminary plans were

followed with a slight alteration  
in the configuration of the porch  
on the north & south facades.  
(Piers were used rather than  
free standing columns)

**DEC 12 1978**