

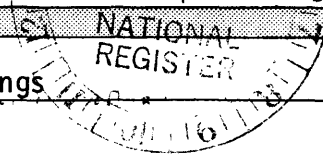
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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	1572	DATE
	MAR 7	1973



1. NAME

COMMON: Bleak Hall Plantation Outbuildings

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION On SC Hwy 174, .75 miles south from Edisto Island Post Office; turn left on dirt road and continue 1.3 miles; turn left and continue 1.75 miles; turn left, outbuildings 100 yds. down dirt road.

STREET AND NUMBER: left on dirt road and continue 1.3 miles; turn left and continue 1.75 miles; turn left, outbuildings 100 yds. down dirt road.

CITY OR TOWN: Edisto Island vicinity

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: John Meyer

STREET AND NUMBER: Bleak Hall Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Edisto Island vicinity STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Just prior to his marriage in 1798, Daniel Townsend began construction of Bleak Hall Plantation on Edisto Island. Today three outbuildings, probably constructed in the 1840s by Daniel Townsend's son, John Townsend, are all that remain of the plantation.

The most prominent of these three outbuildings is the ice house, a rectangular wooden story-and-a-half building erected close to the ground on a partial basement of tabby construction. The southern and northern facades are identical, with flush boarding through the first floor and clapboard in the gable. Two vertical-plank doors, one at ground level and one in the gable, are flanked by a permanent wooden ladder. The lower door is flanked by two narrow, vertical-plank shutters covering paneless windows which extend above the lower door level. Two barge boards of circular design, one the reverse of the other, adorn the eaves of the high gable roof, which is covered with cypress shingles and slightly flared at the bottom. The barge boards are connected at regular intervals with short wooden strips. At the gable peaks and at the peak of the dormer are three-level wooden spires which extend through the roof and terminate in pendants.

The western and eastern facades consist of flush-boarded walls with mock intersecting tracery windows and a mock door of the same design. Boarding within the mock bays is vertical. Exposed rafters just below the eaves accent a dentil-designed board extending across the facade. A high triangular dormer with two pointed windows of twelve lights each is centrally located in the roof. Directly in front of the dormer windows is a small balcony with supports in a double diamond design. The design of the dormer barge boards repeats that of the gables proper.

The ice house is pegged and the walls insulated with sawdust. The partial basement consists of three walls of tabby construction with charcoal insulation. The interior ceiling has a beaded design. A new floor was installed around 1965.

A second outbuilding, a rectangular equipment shed, is of tabby construction with a high wooden gable roof covered with cypress shingles. Modern sliding doors have been placed under the gable of the southern facade. On the northern facade, a permanent wooden ladder extends from the ground to the large vertical-plank door in the clapboard gable. The gable eaves are covered with barge boards with downward sloping dentil design, and boards with serrated decoration extend beneath the eaves of the eastern and western facades. At each gable peak is a three-level wooden spire that extends through the roof and terminates in a pendant.

The third outbuilding, a cubicle of tabby construction, was probably used as a smokehouse. The single entrance is a vertical-plank door. The slightly bellcast hipped roof is covered with cypress shingles and topped by a three-level wooden spire. Below the eaves all around the structure is a board with large serrated dentil decoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

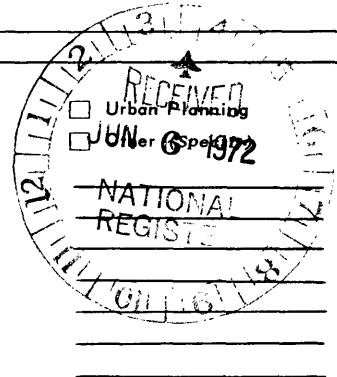
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1840

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"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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

Agricultural Significance: John Townsend was born at Bleak Hall in October of 1799, the first son of Daniel Townsend and Hepzibah Jenkins. Inheriting Bleak Hall from his father, John Townsend became well known as an advanced agriculturalist. He was one of the largest planters of sea island cotton in the state and won many prizes for its quality and length. Bleak Hall cotton was highly valued in Belgium and France for making lace. Not only the cotton, but the Bleak Hall gardens were renowned. John Townsend employed a Japanese gardner to lay out and care for the elaborate and exotic gardens. Remains of these gardens surround the outbuildings in this nomination.

Architectural Significance: Though the main house of Bleak Hall Plantation was destroyed by fire, the three remaining outbuildings are excellent representatives of the gothic revival architecture utilized in the construction of this plantation. Particularly noteworthy is the structure and design of the perfectly preserved ice house with its mock tracery windows and door and the high gabled roof with triangular dormer.

Political Significance: John Townsend was known not only as an agriculturalist, but also as a political leader. He served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1822 to 1826 and 1828 to 1832, and the South Carolina Senate from 1850 to 1858. He was a delegate to the Secession Convention of 1860-62, and signed the Ordinance of Secession which ushered in the Civil War. John Townsend also served as magistrate, commissioner of roads, commissioner of free schools, justice of the peace, and justice of quorum. He died at Bleak Hall in 1881 and was buried in Edisto Island Presbyterian Churchyard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Graydon, Nell S. Tales of Edisto. Columbia, S. C.: The R. L. Bryan, Co., 1955, pp. 7-24.
 Reynolds, E. B., and J. R. Faunt. Biographical Directory of The Senate of South Carolina. Columbia, S. C.: The South Carolina Archives Department, 1964, p. 323.
The South Carolina Historical and Geneological Magazine, Vol. XX (1919), p. 240.
 Will of Daniel Townsend, dated March 7, 1833. Charleston Wills, Vol. 42, p. 442, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		N 32°	33'	10.4"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W 80°	14'	03.1"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Wright Caughman Historical Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives & History** DATE: **May 9, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **45**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 S. Lee*

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date May 24, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/7/73

ATTEST:
W. J. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.5.73

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