

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JAN 15 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 28 1976

## 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  
Roselawn (Lawton House)

AND/OR COMMON  
Roselawn

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
State Hwy. 47, 3 miles southwest of Allendale

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Allendale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1

STATE  
South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Allendale

CODE

005

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

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Don C. and Camille C. Sharp

STREET & NUMBER  
Roselawn

CITY, TOWN  
Allendale

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allendale County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Memorial Avenue and Barnwell Highway

CITY, TOWN  
Allendale

STATE

South Carolina

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE  
1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS S. C. Dept. of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
1430 Senate Street (P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station) Columbia, South Carolina

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input 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    |   |   |

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

Roselawn is a pine-clapboard, one and one-half story raised cottage. Built by Joseph Alexander Lawton (1811-1892), Roselawn was begun ca. 1835 and completed ca. 1840. It has remained in the Lawton family throughout its entire history.

Exterior: The front facade is characterized by three dormer windows and a piazza which extends its entire length. The piazza is supported by eight wooden square columns and is enclosed by wooden balustrades. Entranceway is a single, double-paneled door with sidelights and transom.

Originally the piazza extended halfway down each side of the structure, but through the years most of it has been enclosed. The rear facade features two dormers and a central piazza which has been partially enclosed on each side. The doorway features three panels and three lights. The ceilings of the rear piazza, as well as the front piazza, have the original plaster.

Dormer windows are narrow 9/9 (with the exception of one of the rear dormers which is 6/9), main floor windows are 6/6 with louvered shutters. One window in rear of structure is single sash with fifteen panes. Leading up to both rear and front piazza are balustraded single wooden stairways. Double flights of brick steps with iron railings were added ca. 1960 at the base of each.

Brick pillars, nine feet high, support the piazza. A broken gable roof covers the structure. A fire hazard, the original shingle roof was covered by tin ca. 1900. Two of the three single brick chimneys were destroyed by tornadoes in 1960 but were reconstructed as close in style to the originals as possible. Since 1945 a modern kitchen and bath have been added to the rear of the structure.

Interior: The floor plan is basically rectangular. There are four rooms on the ground floor basement; nine on the main floor, with a central hallway; and two rooms connected by a small landing on the upper floor. The two main rooms on the main floor have plaster moldings, and the living room features a plaster medallion. Decorative plaster moldings trim the doorways and corner blocks of windows in both living room and front bedroom. Wide baseboards (up to one foot wide), paneled doors, and high plaster ceilings characterize most of the rooms. All of the nails in the original rooms are hand-wrought, and the boards are hand-hewn heart of pine.

The entrance hall originally led to both dining and living rooms, but has been altered to lead only to the living room; the dining room door was closed and plastered and the living room door was removed and replaced by an arch. Off the left side of the structure, where the piazza originally extended, a paneled den has been added. These alterations have occurred since 1945.

Surroundings: Originally consisting of 1,200 acres, the plantation has expanded to 2,000 acres -- three of which are being nominated. The nominated acreage includes that immediately surrounding the structure and the yard. A tree-lined driveway leads to the front yard.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input checked="" 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 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 1835-1840, 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Alexander Lawton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roselawn, built during a five year period (ca. 1835-1840), stands out not only as an example of early 19th Century architecture, but also as a plantation which has been maintained and farmed continuously by one family throughout its entire history. Roselawn is also one of the very few remaining plantations of the Buddenville area (about five miles SW of present day Allendale). In the first half of the 19th Century Buddenville was "a region inhabited by large planters and land owners where wealth, affluence, culture and high standards of living were reflected in palatial homes and surroundings."<sup>1</sup> Roselawn is one of the few homes in the Buddenville area that was not destroyed during the War Between the States.

Agriculture: Although agricultural methods and crops have been changed, Roselawn has been farmed continuously by one family throughout its entire history. The present owners of Roselawn have received several farming awards and citations.

Architecture: Roselawn exemplifies the Bahamian influence in its raised cottage style of architecture. This style was prevalent in the Southeast -- particularly on the coast -- during the early half of the 19th Century. Roselawn is also notable for the interior detail work. The plaster moldings, paneled doors, and original floors, walls and ceilings remain in excellent condition.

Military: During the War Between the States, Union troops came through the Allendale area. They looted and burned the home of Ben Lawton (Joseph Lawton's brother), a signer of the Ordinance of Secession. His home was directly across the road from Roselawn. According to the oldest surviving member of the family, the troops were commanded by General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick and camped at Roselawn. An account written by a family member who lived during this experience supports this tradition. This account also reports Confederate soldiers being at Roselawn at various times during the war.

Religion: The builder of Roselawn, Reverend Joseph Alexander Lawton (1811-1892), was a founder and minister of Concord Baptist Church (no longer extant). Reverend Lawton also served as minister in several other churches in the area.

<sup>1</sup>. Alexania Easterling Lawton and Minnie Reeves Wilson, Allendale on the Savannah (Bamberg, S. C.: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970), p. 164.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Lawton, Alexania Easterling, and Wilson, Minnie Reeves. Allendale on the Savannah.  
Bamberg, South Carolina: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970.

Miller, Annie Elizabeth. Our Family Circle. Marietta, Georgia: Continental Book  
Company, 1957.

Searson, Louis Arthur. The Town of Allendale. Columbia, South Carolina: 1949.

Interview with Mrs. Don Sharp, Allendale, South Carolina, July 23, 1975.

Lawton family papers, in possession of Mrs. Don Sharp, Allendale, South Carolina.