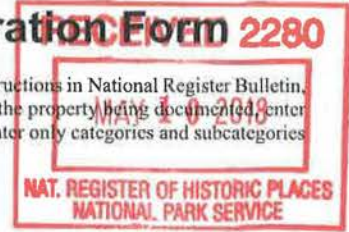


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form 2280

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Richardson-Godbold House
Other names/site number: Pleasant Grove; Oak Grove Plantation; Godbold Post Office
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)


2. Location

Street & number: 8447 South Highway 41
City or town: Marion State: SC County: Marion
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets
the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>5/7/2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain: _____)

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

6/25/18
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Government/ Post Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Mid-Nineteenth Century/Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Walls: Wood

Foundation: brick

Roof: standing seam metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Richardson-Godbold House was constructed in 1850 by William Fladger Richardson and was originally known as Oak Grove and Pleasant Grove Plantation. The house was designed by Philander Curtis, a builder/designer from Connecticut. It retains a high degree of historic integrity. The overall architectural character is that of a fine vernacular building in the Greek Revival style. Although the overall appearance is simple, the house is well-designed, and exhibits the symmetry, precise proportions, and use of Greek motifs that characterize Greek Revival residences. All materials used for the original house were obtained from materials located on the plantation. A one-story compatible rear kitchen and bathroom addition, built in 2005, is conscientiously subservient to the historical home.

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Narrative Description

1. Richardson-Godbold House (1850) – Contributing Building

Setting and Site

The Richardson-Godbold House is positioned on just over six acres outside of Marion in a rural setting. The house is surrounded by approximately sixteen hundred acres owned by members of the Godbold Family. The land is bordered by the Little Pee Dee River on the east side. A gently curved gravel drive runs between the house and the road, with two offshoot drives leading to outbuildings on the north side of the property and to the side porch on the south side of the property. The landscaping in front of the house is simple and symmetrical, with a very low three-sided rectangular brick wall with lampposts in each corner opening toward the drive and a brick pathway leading to front of the house. The border wall and pathway are lined by small shrubbery. There are a number of mature trees around the house and the drive. The five outbuildings are located to the rear of the house, three on the south side and two to the north.

Exterior

The Richardson-Godbold House is a two-story residence with a side-gable roof. The front (east) elevation faces the road (SC Highway 41), and is formal and symmetrical in its composition. The fenestration consists of three bays of paired windows on the second story with a central door flanked by paired windows on the first floor. A deep porch spans the first floor and it is supported by six Greek Doric columns that are seated on brick piers beyond the porch deck. That configuration is known locally as a “rain porch.” The six Greek Doric columns along the front porch were made from plantation trees hand-turned by enslaved workers. The windows are wood, two-over-two double-hung sash. The windows openings are narrow but vertically proportioned, with a thick mullion between the paired windows. The house, along with its porch, is built on brick piers. The original brick piers, along with the interior fireplaces, were hand-made on the plantation from sand, and have deteriorated over time. The corners of this side of the house have Doric pilasters with capitals on both levels. The front door has narrow sidelights and a flat horizontal transom which are typical of the Greek Revival style.

On the symmetrical side elevations there is a prominent low slung gable-end typical of the Greek Revival. The moldings include a cyma recta molding, a corona, and a split fillet, and the corners are treated with pilasters that match those in the front. The gable-end is clad with flush boards while the rest of the house is sheathed with cypress clapboards. Within the gable-end is a triple set of small square windows. Working shutters flank each set of windows.

The rear elevation is a simple but elegant continuation of the Greek Revival theme. Originally, there was no rear entrance on this elevation. A rear door was added in the 1940s, along with a small raised back porch where a bathroom was located. The original kitchen was located, separate from the house, on the southwest corner of the property. The kitchen structure burned in the 1880s. The 1940s porch and bathroom were removed during the renovations in 2002 and

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replaced with a new kitchen and bathroom addition. The new addition is compatible with the original house. The rear addition is one story and continues the linear theme and proportions of the clapboards on the rest of the house.

The original roof on the house was made of cypress shake shingles. During a post-World War II renovation of the house, the roof was replaced with galvanized steel shingles. In the 1990s the roof was replaced with a standing seam metal roof and the original chimneys were enclosed and covered.

Interior

The structure of the house is of mortise and tenon construction, with hand-hewn beams held together with wooden pegs. The house has a central passage plan, with four rooms up and four room down. The rooms are large, measuring 18' x 18'. The central passage is 36' x 14' with a 4' wide staircase on the south side of the passage. The staircase, central passage, and the two front rooms downstairs retain the original marbleized baseboards with bird's eye maple paneling. The original doors are present in the house. Many of them are finished with a wave type design original to that period of time. Additionally, a few of the original light fixtures also remain.

Originally, fireplaces constructed of handmade brick were present in all eight rooms of the house. The bricks were made up, in a large part, of sand. Due to the composition of the brick, and their deterioration over time, removal of the fireplaces was necessary during restoration. These fireplaces were converted to gas as a method to heat the house, while safe guarding against the threat of fire. Though the fireboxes are replaced, all eight fireplace mantles are original to the house and replicate the Doric pilasters on the four corners of the house.

2. Stable (c.1880) – Contributing Building

Located on the south side of the house is a small stable that is ca. 1880's. The original structure was rectangular (13 feet x 20 feet) with an A-line pitched roof. In the 1940's, a tin roof was added, along with stalls on the south and north side for mules and cattle. The original cypress shake shingles exist under the tin. Hay and grain were stored in the original structure. A "lean to" was built adjacent to, but separate from, the stable in 2017.

Non-Contributing Resources

- A. Barn (c. 1985) – Non-Contributing Building** Three bays wide with front gable roof. Located northwest of the house and just west of storage building #1. Middle bay is open for access. Built outside of the period of significance.
- B. Storage Building #1 – Non-Contributing Building** One of two storage buildings on the property. Located northwest of the house and just east of the non-contributing barn. Has a side gable standing-seam metal roof. Built outside of the period of significance.
- C. Storage Building #2 – Non-Contributing Building** One of two storage buildings on the property. Located southwest of the house and just to the west of the c. 1880 stable. Has a side gable standing-seam metal roof. Built outside of the period of significance.
- D. Storage Shed – Non-Contributing Building** Frame shed located off the southwest corner of the house. Built outside of the period of significance.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Communications
Politics/Government
Agriculture

Period of Significance

1850-1917

Significant Dates

1850

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Philander Curtis

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Richardson-Godbold House is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Communications and Politics/Government for its use as a rural U.S. Post Office between 1880 and 1917. The period between the end of the Civil War and the turn-of-the-century saw a massive increase in the number of post offices and in the amount of mail sent across America. The Godbold Post Office was established at the house in 1880, in the midst of the late 19th century post office boom, and served the local area until it was discontinued in 1917, probably as a result of the impact of Rural Free Delivery introduced in the early 1900s. During its operation, the post office provided an important communications link between this rural area of Marion County and the rest of the country. The property is also significant under Criterion A in the area of agriculture as the center of what was once a large plantation. Additionally, the Richardson-Godbold House is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a good and rare example of a vernacular Greek Revival plantation house in Marion County. The 1850 residence exhibits many features common to the Greek Revival style, including a symmetrical façade, gabled roof with pedimented gable-ends, corner pilasters, transom and sidelights in the front door surround, and a full-width front porch supported by simplified Doric columns. There are very few extant Greek Revival houses in Marion County, and even fewer outside the limits of the town of Marion. The period of significance extends from the home's construction in 1850 and continues through its service as a post office, which ended in 1917.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Rural Postal Service in Marion County, South Carolina, 1880-1917
(Communications and Politics/Government)

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the Richardson-Godbold House served as the area post office, an important civic function for the rural area. The definitive evidence includes original certificates issued by the Postmaster General of the United States of America naming James Monroe Godbold as postmaster of Godbold in 1880 and his daughter Viola Godbold as postmaster in 1904. It appears that Viola took over the position following her father's death in May of 1904.¹ Furthermore, James Godbold, and later Viola Godbold, are listed as postmasters in the *Official Register of the United States* between 1880 and 1911 (the last year the complete register was published). Both names also appear in the "Record of Appointment of Postmasters 1832-September 30, 1971," which records the appointments of both James and Viola Godbold,

¹ L.O.W., "Godbold," Unknown Newspaper, 1904, Ancestry, accessed December 8, 2017, <https://www.ancestryinstitution.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/13392654/person/501288342/media/8c89c883-2d27-407f-8f63-2cb41c05daf8>.

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as well as the discontinuation of the Godbold Post Office in June of 1917.² The large wooden letter holder, used for the storage and separation of the mail, remains in the house.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is among America's oldest institutions, predating even the American Colonies formal declaration of independence from Great Britain. Established in 1775 by the Second Continental Congress as the Post Office Department of the United States, the new postal system freed colonists from the surveilled mail service provided by the Crown.³ In its earliest iteration, the American postal system operated much the same way as its colonial predecessor. The transformation of the system came with the Post Office Act of 1792. The new law subsidized the transmission of newspapers, prohibited the opening of mail by post office employees, and gave Congress the power to establish postal routes.⁴ The law set the foundation for a postal service that extended to all corners of the fledgling country, even into the frontier, and provided timely access to news and the secure transmission of correspondence. The postal service fostered civic life in the days of the Early Republic: "By facilitating the regular transmission of information throughout the length and breadth of the United States, the postal system provided ordinary Americans with information about the wider world that they could obtain in no other way."⁵ At a time when travel between states was usually a matter of days rather than hours, the postal service allowed Americans to securely and reliably share news and ideas across vast distances.

The postal service continued to expand and improve in the 19th century, spurred by continual development in transportation technology, from the stage coach, to the steamboat, to the train. Sending the mail via train proved the most transformative, enabling the USPS to carry more mail farther and faster than ever before. The Civil War and its immediate aftermath also brought significant changes to the USPS, including increased employment opportunities for women and African Americans.⁶ As the nation began its recovery from the war, the USPS began a period of tremendous growth. Between the end of the Civil War and 1890, the number of post offices in the country doubled to more than 62,000. Likewise, in the same period, the number of letters sent annually increased from about 275,000 to 15 million.

The post's dynamism and centrality to America's public and private life were must fully realized between 1880 and 1920. During these glory days, the institution's success in bringing more public services to many more people both supported and reflected an America that was tapping the riches of its vast West, moving to the center of the international state, and exulting in its position as the world's leading industrial powerhouse – all achieved in little more than a generation.⁷

² "National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microfilm Publication M841, Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-September 30, 1971, Roll 115, South Carolina, Hampton-York Counties," (Washington: The National Archives, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1973), Vol. 99,149-150.

³ Winifred Gallagher, *How the Post Office Created America: A History* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016), 25-27.

⁴ Richard R. John, *Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995), 25-45.

⁵ John, *Spreading the News*, 6.

⁶ Gallagher, *How the Post Office Created America*, 155-161.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 181.

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It was during this important era in the history of the USPS that the Godbold Post Office served its local community. Available records indicate that the Godbold Post Office was established in 1880 with the appointment of James Godbold as postmaster. The creation of this rural post office in 1880 is indicative of the rapid expansion of the postal system in the late 19th century. The Richardson-Godbold House is located about three-and-a-half miles south of Centenary, just over five-and-half miles north of Brittons Neck, and about six miles northeast of Gresham. The Godbold Post Office served the people who lived in the space between these three small unincorporated communities in the southern section of Marion County.

Isolated locations like the area around the Richardson-Godbold House, which remains heavily rural and agricultural to the present day, saw few of the advancements in postal service enjoyed by city dwellers. Indeed, most of America's rural post offices continued to operate much as they had since the time of the Revolutionary War. The postmasters of rural America were held in high-regard by the community and typically operated their post offices out of inns or stores, with some, like the Godbolds, hosting the post office within their own homes.⁸ The appointment of James Godbold as postmaster is consistent with his social status, as he was a well-respected member of the community who, prior to the Civil War, was part of the planter class.

James Godbold was succeeded as postmaster by his daughter, Viola Godbold, in 1904. Women have served as postmasters since the inception of the USPS, but their numbers remained small until the later 19th century. By century's end, over 6,000 women were working as postmasters for the USPS, accounting for about ten percent of all postmaster positions.⁹ The appointment of Viola Godbold was therefore not out of the ordinary for the time period, but certainly male postmasters still vastly outnumbered their female peers. Viola, the eldest child of James and his wife Martha, never married and remained in her parents' home until her mother's death. Considering that the post office was located within the Richardson-Godbold House, it makes sense that a member of the immediate family took over the work of postmaster after James died. Records indicate that Viola served as postmaster for thirteen years, until the Godbold Post Office ceased operations in 1917.

The community surrounding the Godbold Post Office was a racially diverse one. The 1900 Federal Census shows a variety of both Black and white residents who lived in the vicinity of the Richardson-Godbold House and it is highly probable that the Godbold Post Office served both Black and white patrons. While racial discrimination and segregation among postal workers is well documented, the effect on customers is less clear. A late 19th century mail bag from Palmyra, Virginia, with separate compartments labeled "white" and "colored" suggests that segregation did impact the way mail was distributed in the South during this period, though there is no specific evidence for the role segregation played at the Godbold Post Office.¹⁰ It is possible that the post office functioned like many country stores in South Carolina, where African Americans could come as customers but the prevailing racial hierarchy still governed social

⁸ Gallagher, *How the Post Office Created America*, 105-108.

⁹ "Women Postmasters," United States Postal Service, July 2008, accessed December 11, 2017, <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/women-postmasters.pdf>.

¹⁰ "Segregation: Postal," *Freedom Just Around the Corner: Black America from Civil War to Civil Rights*, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, accessed December 8, 2017, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/freedom/p8.html>.

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interactions and use of the space for community gathering was typically restricted to white males.¹¹

The end of the Godbold Post Office likely came as a result of Rural Free Delivery (RFD). Beginning in the 1890s, the RFD program began tests throughout the country as the USPS sought a way to make the mail delivery much more convenient for the country's many farmers. The program was expensive to operate, but it was championed by the country's rural citizens. It allowed farmers quicker and better access to weather reports and crop prices, and increased rural property values. People living in the country finally received the benefit of free delivery, a service previously offered only to their urban counterparts. RFD freed farmers and other rural dwellers from requisite trips to the local post office, which were sometimes difficult to make due to distance, health, weather, or other factors. RFD became a permanent service in 1902 under President Theodore Roosevelt.¹² The advent of RFD may be the reason that the post office role of the Richardson-Godbold House ceased in 1917. The Godbold Post Office continued to operate longer than many other rural post offices in the area, as it was one of the last Marion County post offices to close in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The impact of RFD is reflected in post office closures from the same period, as twenty-two Marion County post offices were disbanded between 1900 and 1910. In comparison, eight post offices were closed between 1890 and 1900 and another six, including Godbold, were shut down between 1910 and 1920.¹³

Through its thirty-seven years of operation, the Godbold Post Office provides a local example of the broader growth and change experienced by the USPS in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Godbold Post Office represents the post-Civil War expansion of the postal system and the determination of the USPS to better serve America's rural population. Godbold, and similar small rural post offices like it, provided an important link between rural Americans and the wider world, improving their social and economic prospects. Ultimately, the desire of farmers and other rural people to see the mail brought directly to their homes led to the demise of many small, rural post offices. The Godbold Post Office was both created and destroyed by progress, but its history serves as an important reminder of the rapid evolution of communication in America in the decades before and after the turn-of-the-century.

Criterion C: Architecture – Greek Revival

The Richardson-Godbold House is a very good example of a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style emerged in the United States in the early 19th century. The seeds of the style can be traced back to the second-half of the 18th century, when western scholars and archaeologists were able to travel to Greece in relative safety for the first time in centuries. The publication of studies of the art and architecture of Ancient Greece followed and brought contemporary, first-hand accounts of Greece's material culture to the

¹¹ Jackie Tyson, Kristie Lockerman, and Mary Beth Reed, "Rural Commerce in Context: South Carolina's Country Stores, 1850-1950" (Stone Mountain, GA: New South Associates, 2013), 33.

¹² Devin Leonard, *Neither Snow Nor Rain: A History of the United States Postal Service* (New York: Grove Press, 2016), 81-83.

¹³ "National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microfilm Publication M841, Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-September 30, 1971, Roll 115, South Carolina, Hampton-York Counties," Vol. 65, 205-204, Vol. 99, 149-154.

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West. Interest in Greece increased, especially in the fledgling American republic, with the onset of the War of Greek Independence in the 1820s. The style was initially applied primarily to public architecture, with residential use not becoming common until about 1830. The style was popularized by the circulation of pattern books, especially those of Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever. During the two decades between 1830 and 1850, the Greek Revival was the most prevalent style in American residential architecture.¹⁴

Greek Revival houses typically feature a symmetrical façade, gabled roof, thick cornice lines, entry or full-width front porches supported by columns (typically Doric), and a front door surround that incorporates sidelights and a line of transom windows. These details are an homage, rather than a strict adherence, to the elements of the architecture of Ancient Greece. Although the Richardson-Godbold House is a vernacular, rather than a high-style, example of the Greek Revival, it nevertheless exhibits each of these character-defining features. The two-story house has a symmetrical façade and a side-gable roof with pedimented gables and a simple but well-defined cornice. The one-story full-width front rain porch is supported by six unfluted Doric columns, and the two-story pilasters at the corners of the house continue the Doric theme. The front door is flanked by narrow sidelights and topped by a plain lintel and a row of rectangular transom windows. The trim around the door and sidelights is a miniaturized version of the corner pilasters.

The form of the front porch of the Richardson-Godbold house is also of note. This type of porch, commonly called a rain porch or Carolina porch, is a regional variation found in parts of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia, from about 1820 to 1860. A rain porch is characterized by the arrangement of the support columns for the porch roof, which are freestanding and placed beyond the balustraded deck. Rain porches are most commonly associated with vernacular Greek Revival houses, like the Richardson-Godbold House. In South Carolina, the form is found most often in the northeastern portion of the state, though a few examples are found elsewhere. Outmigration from South Carolina appears to have spread the form to the states of the Old Southwest, along with parts of Florida. The precise purpose of the rain porch is unclear, but it is probably that the intent of the design is to improve the lifespan of the wooden porch by decreasing its exposure to the elements.¹⁵

The Richardson-Godbold house was designed by an itinerant architect named Philander Curtis. Curtis came to South Carolina from Connecticut and designed three houses in Marion County (including the Richardson-Godbold House) before heading further south. The other two houses built by Curtis are similar in design to the Richardson-Godbold House. They are the Young-Johnson House in the town of Marion and the Mayor J. Blakely House near Mullins, South Carolina, about nine miles from Marion. The Young-Johnson House is a contributor to the National Register listed Marion Historic District. Though smaller in scale than the Richardson-Godbold House at only one-and-a-half stories, the Young-Johnson House has a similar full-width rain porch supported by six unfluted Doric columns.

¹⁴ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014), 250-252.

¹⁵ Andrew W. Chandler, "Rain porch," in Walter Edgar, ed., *South Carolina Encyclopedia* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2006), 771.

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There are very few extant Greek Revival houses in Marion County, and the majority of these are urban dwellings in the town of Marion. There are three Greek Revival residences that contribute to the Marion Historic District: the aforementioned Young-Johnson House at 502 E. Godbold Street, the Methodist District Parsonage at 109 W. Baptist Street, and the McDonald-Price House at 403 S. Main Street. The Maj. Ferdinand Gibson House at 201 Presbyterian Street was another Greek Revival contributor to the Marion Historic District, but it was destroyed by fire in the 1980s.¹⁶ The two-story Greek Revival house at 419 Dunlop Street in Marion is located outside the historic district.

Rural examples of the Greek Revival in Marion County are rarer still. One is Oak Hall, located just to the north of the present boundaries of Marion. This exterior of this fine example of a Greek Revival house is similar to the Richardson-Godbold House. It is two stories, with a side-gable roof, wood siding, a full-width rain porch supported by six unfluted Doric columns, and corner pilasters. Oak Hall also features two small side-porches, six-over-six sash windows, and two brick chimneys. Another rural Greek Revival house is the Gilchrest House, surveyed as individually eligible for the National Register in 2009 as part of the Marion County Historic Resources Survey. The two-story Gilchrest House is located near Mullins, in the northeast corner of Marion County. The house is set far back from the road and largely surrounded by mature trees, making it difficult to see from the public right-of-way. However, observable features include a hipped roof, full-width rain porch with six unfluted Doric columns, and a side-porch on the south elevation.

The Richardson-Godbold House certainly shares characteristics with the other Greek Revival houses discussed above. However, occurrences of this style are uncommon within Marion County and the majority are concentrated within the town of Marion. The house exemplifies many of the character-defining features of the Greek Revival and retains a relatively high degree of historic integrity. The Richardson-Godbold House is a good representative example of a vernacular Greek Revival house within its local context.

Criterion A: Agriculture

Though Curtis designed the Richardson-Godbold House, the actual construction of the house was almost certainly carried out by enslaved workers owned by the Richardson family. William Fladger Richardson, the original owner of the home, appeared on the slave schedules on both the 1850 and 1860 federal censuses. In 1850 he is listed as owning twenty-three enslaved people and ten years later the number had risen to forty.¹⁷ Like Richardson, James Monroe Godbold, who married Richardson's daughter and inherited the property upon Richardson's death in 1863, was also a slaveholder. In 1860 he owned fourteen enslaved people and likely inherited a number of Richardson's bondpeople along with the house and land.¹⁸ While the Richardson-Godbold House

¹⁶ Edna Miles McLendon and Mary Ann Eaddy, "Marion Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, October 4, 1973.

¹⁷ W.F. Richardson, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedules, Marion [District], South Carolina; Wm. F. Richardson, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedules, Marion [District], South Carolina.

¹⁸ Jas. M. Godbold, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedules, Marion [District], South Carolina.

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once stood at the center of a substantial plantation, inhabited by not only the Richardson and Godbold families, but also by numerous enslaved families, this history is no longer reflected by the built environment of the farm. The location of the slave quarters is unknown and it does not appear that any remaining fabric, apart from the house itself, remains from this period.

The surrounding agricultural fields do remain, however, and continue to reflect the agricultural past of the property. The main commodity crops grown on the Richardson plantation were rice and cotton. In 1860 the enslaved workforce produced 3,300 pounds of the former and 14,400 pounds of the latter. The rice was likely grown on marshy tracts bordering the Little Pee Dee River, which passed just to the east of the house, as well as the smaller tributaries that crisscrossed the plantation lands. While rice cultivation is most often associated with coastal plantations situated along tidal rivers, inland rice production was the dominant method of production until the late eighteenth century and continued in places like Marion District well into the twentieth century.¹⁹ In 1860, many of Richardson's neighbors also cultivated at least some rice, though Richardson cultivated more than most. One exception was Elly Godbold, whose plantation yielded 4,000 pounds of rice and 30,000 pounds of cotton.²⁰ Elly was a cousin of J.M. Godbold, who would acquire the Richardson plantation in 1863.²¹

Farm produce on the Richardson plantation in 1860 also included 800 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of peas and beans, 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 300 pounds of butter. While a sizable portion of that produce would have been consumed domestically by the extended Richardson household, including enslaved people, the volume suggests that Richardson also marketed some of the crop for profit. Livestock also supplemented the income derived from commodity production. In addition to working stock, in 1860 there were 40 head of cattle, 86 sheep, and 125 swine enumerated on the Richardson plantation, with the total value of animals slaughtered during the year estimated at \$500.²² By diversifying production, Richardson was able to maximize the productivity of his roughly 3,800 acre plantation and ensure that the enslaved workforce remained continuously engaged in labor. Cotton, planted in late April, would have been harvested in the late fall. Rice, sown from April to June, would have required extensive attention during the summer months before being harvested in mid to late September. Betwixt and between food crops would have been planted and harvested, livestock fed, watered, and slaughtered. The cycle of labor on the plantation for the enslaved people living there would have been constant.

The Richardson-Godbold house remained the center of a working farm after emancipation and much of the land around the home remains under cultivation today. While the 6.33 acres included in the present nomination represents a small fraction of the original Richardson-Godbold plantation, the property is still surrounded by agricultural lands that contribute to the

¹⁹ Andrew Agha, Charles Phillips, and Joshua Fletcher, "Inland Swamp Rice Context, c. 1690-1783," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011; W.W. Sellers, *A History of Marion County, South Carolina From Its Earliest Times to the Present, 1901* (Columbia, SC: R.L. Bryan Co., 1902), 17, 104-106.

²⁰ Elly Godbold, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Agricultural Schedules, Marion [District], South Carolina.

²¹ Sellers, *A History of Marion County*, 117-125.

²² W.F. Richardson, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Agricultural Schedules, Marion [District], South Carolina.

Richardson-Godbold House

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setting for the home. Much of this landscape remains in possession of the Godbold family through a limited liability corporation. In addition, the property was recognized in 1988 as a National Bicentennial Farm by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This honor recognized the Richardson-Godbold farm for having been owned by the same family since the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787.²³ The family continues to live on the property today. James Elliott Godbold, Sr., great-grandson of James Monroe Godbold, is the current owner of the house.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The original property upon which the house sits was deeded to William Fladger Richardson on November 16, 1838. For the sum of \$1400 he purchased 1797 acres from David Palmer, Richardson's father-in-law. The house came into the Godbold family upon James Monroe Godbold's marriage to William Richardson's daughter, Martha Augusta. The house was bequeathed to Martha Augusta Richardson Godbold upon her father's death. The Godbold family name can be traced back as far as the Norman Defeat of the English Saxons at the battle of Hastings in 1066. John Godbold, grandson of Robert Godbold, who was owner of West Hall Manor in Suffolk County England, came to the Carolina Colonies after retiring from the British Navy. At the age of 69 years, he landed in Georgetown, S.C. and proceeded up the Pee Dee River to a landing known as Mars Bluff. From there he followed an Indian path several miles to the area where the present-day town of Marion, S.C. is located. Here he built a home and a trading post and was one of the first permanent settlers in Marion County. John's grandson, Thomas Jr., donated four acres for the development of the present-day Marion Square and Marion Courthouse. One of the principal streets in Marion was named "Godbold Street" in recognition of Thomas' contribution. Thomas Godbold Jr. is the great-grandfather of James Monroe Godbold of the Richardson-Godbold House.

²³ Wendy Benjaminson, "200-Year-Old Farms Recognized by Government," United Press International Wire Service, 7 Dec. 1988.

Richardson-Godbold House
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Marion County Deed Book X, page 4.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.33 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 33.986796° | Longitude: -79.349371° |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Richardson-Godbold House
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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

As the Richardson- Godbold House is the focus of this National Register Nomination, the boundaries are simply those of the lawns adjacent to the house. In the front, the lawn goes to the highway while the side yards and rear yards are modest in size. The boundaries are delineated by the yellow lines drawn on the attached Marion County tax map, labeled "Richardson-Godbold House, Marion Co." and drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected serve to focus on the house as the subject for this National Register Nomination and correspond to the modern property boundaries of the home.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Patricia Godbold (with SHPO assistance)
organization: _____
street & number: 8447 S. Hwy 41
city or town: Marion state: SC zip code: 29571
e-mail oakgrove1790@aol.com
telephone: (843) 362-1112
date: 7/11/17

Richardson-Godbold House
Name of Property

Marion, SC
County and State

name/title: Ralph C. Muldrow
organization: _____
street & number: 81 Moultrie St
city or town: Charleston state: SC zip code: 29403
e-mail muldrowe@cofc.edu
telephone: (843) 853-9862
date: 12/23/13

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Richardson-Godbold House
Name of Property

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Richardson- Godbold House

City or Vicinity: Marion

County: Marion

State: SC

Photographer: Patricia Godbold

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1: Main (east) elevation, camera facing west

Photo 2: National Bicentennial Farm sign, northeast of house along Hwy. 41

Photo 3: Northern elevation, camera facing south

Photo 4: Pergola at rear of building, camera facing east

Photo 5: Stable south of building, camera facing east

Photo 6: Stable south of building, camera facing northeast

Photo 7: Southern elevation, camera facing northeast

Photo 8: Main staircase with marbled baseboards

Photo 9: Detail of marbled baseboards

Photo 10: Detail of wooden mail sorter dating from period when home was used as post office

Photo 11: 1904 certificate commissioning Viola Godbold as Postmaster

Photo 12: 1880 certificate commissioning James Godbold as Postmaster

Photo 13: Mail pieces showing "Godbold P.O."

Photo 14: Interior hallway and staircase

Photo 15: Wooden mail sorter dating from period when home was used as post office

Photo 16: Detail of one of eight original mantles in the home

Photo 17: Detail of interior trimwork

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- Photo 18: Detail of mortise-and-tenon joinery
- Photo 19: Passageway to 2005 kitchen addition
- Photo 20: Detail of 2005 kitchen addition

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Richardson-Godbold House, Marion Co



Printed
02/08/2018

The purpose of this map is to display the geographic location of a variety of data sources frequently updated from local government and other agencies. Neither WTH Technology nor the agencies providing this data make any warranty concerning its accuracy or merchantability. And no part of it should be used as a legal description or document.

Richardson-Godbold House
Marion vic., Marion Co.



Richardson-Godbold House

Marion Co., South Carolina

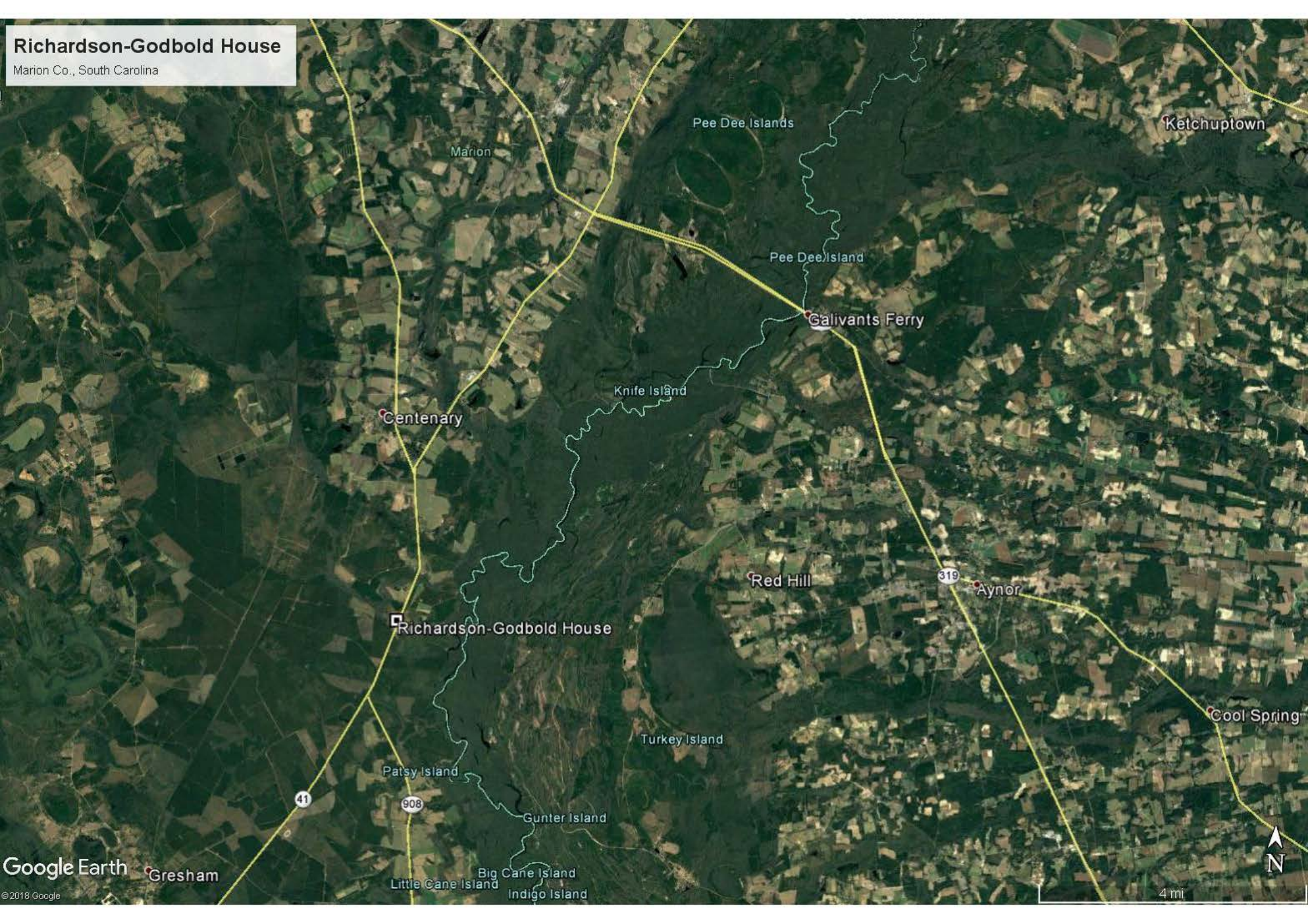
Richardson-Godbold House

Palmer Lake Pl



Richardson-Godbold House

Marion Co., South Carolina



Richardson-Godbold House

Marion Co., South Carolina



Richardson-Godbold House

Galivants Ferry

Centenary

Aynor

Red Hill

Cool Spring

Google Earth
Gresham



4 mi





National
Bicentennial Farm

















JURY SUMMONS:

Sheriff's Jail Report

Post Office Department.



Robert J. Wynne,

Postmaster General of the United States of America,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, On the 15th day of September, 1904, Viola Godbold was appointed Postmaster at Godbold, in the County of Marion, State of South Carolina, and whereas she did on the 5th day of September, 1904, execute a Bond, and has taken the Oath of Office as required by law:

Now know ye, That confiding in the integrity, ability, and punctuality of the said Viola Godbold, I do commission her a Postmaster, authorized to execute the duties of that Office at Godbold aforesaid, according to the laws of the United States and the Regulations of the Post Office Department. To hold the said Office of Postmaster, with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Post Office Department to be affixed, at Washington City, this Monday day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-ninth.



Robert J. Wynne,
Postmaster General

Post Office Department.

HORACE MAYNARD,

Postmaster General of the United States of America.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

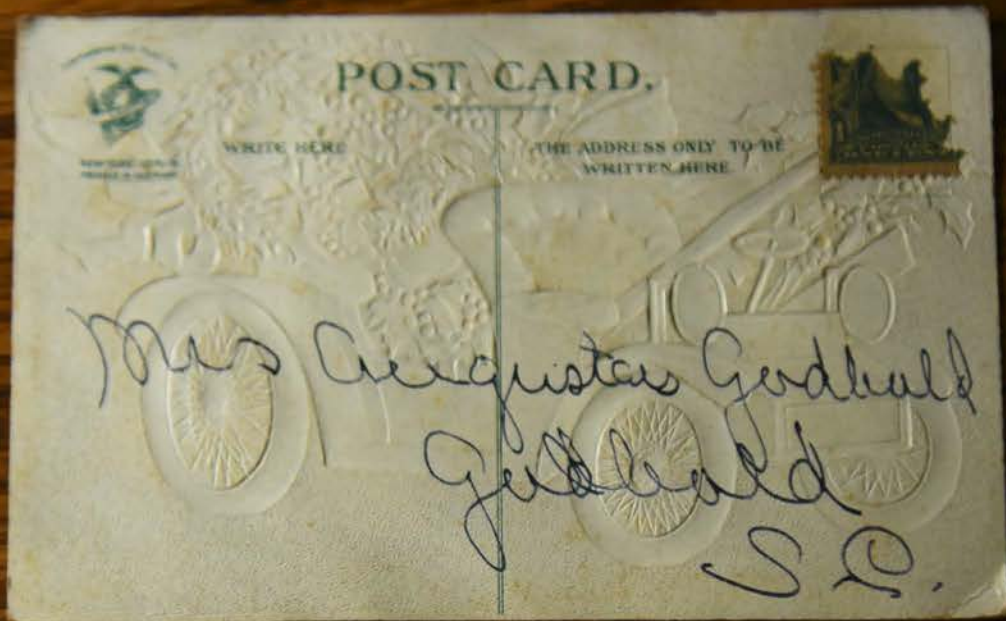
Whereas, On the 23^d day of September, 1880, James M. Goddold was appointed Postmaster at Goddold, in the County of Madison, State of South Carolina, and whereas he did, on the 5th day of October, 1880, execute a Bond, and has taken the Oath of Office, as required by law.

Now know ye, That confiding in the integrity, ability, and punctuality of the said James M. Goddold I do commission him a Postmaster, authorized to execute the duties of that Office at Goddold aforesaid according to the Laws of the United States and the Regulations of the Post Office Department. To hold the said Office of Postmaster, with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Post Office Department to be affixed, at Washington City, the seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and fifth.



A. B. Stegner
Postmaster General



POST CARD.

WRITE HERE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN HERE

Mrs Augustus Godbold
Godbold
S.C.



Post Office Department.
POST OFFICE AT SAVANNAH, GA.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



This envelope can lawfully be used only by an
Office of the United States on Official Business
of the Government. The use of it to avoid pay-
ment of postage on private matter of any kind is
punishable by fine of \$100.

Mrs Viola G. Godbold
Godbold S.C.
Marion County
S. Carolina

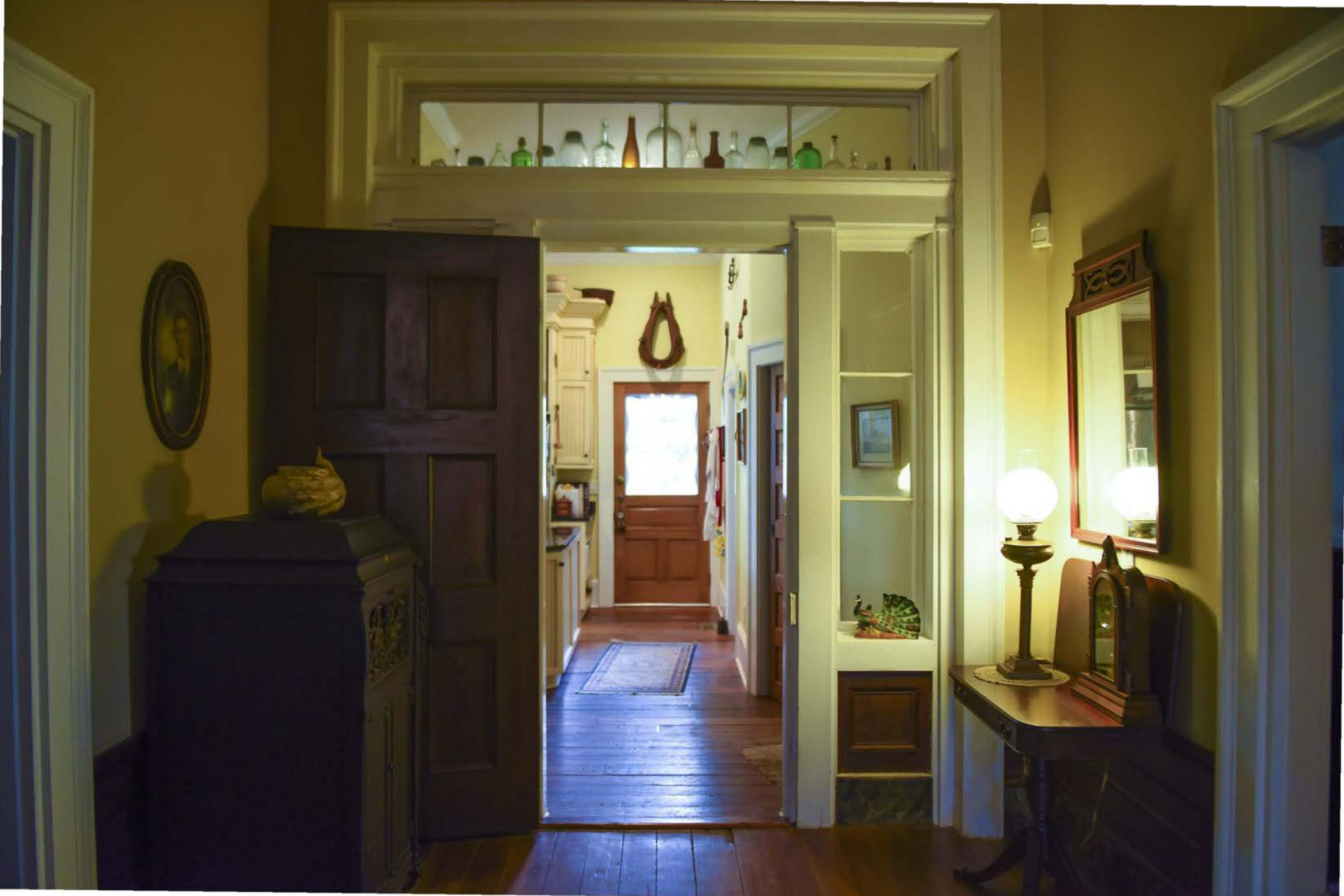














UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Richardson--Godbold House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: SOUTH CAROLINA, Marion

Date Received: 5/10/2018 Date of Pending List: 5/30/2018 Date of 16th Day: 6/14/2018 Date of 45th Day: 6/25/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002599

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 6/25/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Criteria A and C. AOS: Architecture, Agriculture, Communications and Government, POS: 1850-1917, Local level. Was recognized as a National Bicentennial Farm by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. The property also served as the local post office for the community.

Recommendation/ Criteria: A & C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 6/25/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



May 7, 2018

Lisa Deline
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Deline:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for the Richardson-Godbold House in Marion vic., Marion Co., South Carolina. The nomination was approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. We are now submitting this nomination for formal review by the National Register staff. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Richardson-Godbold House to the National Register of Historic Places.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at efoley@scdah.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ehren Foley". The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the end.

Ehren Foley
Historian and National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
8301 Parklane Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29223