

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	DATE	
JUN 13 1972		

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Village of Rockville Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded NE by a line drawn from Bohicket Creek NW, including the Sosnowski House; SE by Bohicket Creek; SW by marshlands of Breakfast Creek; NW by a line drawn from SW to NE, including the Welche's Lane House and intersecting S.C. Hwy. 700.

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville

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

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Miscellaneous

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville      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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 13 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The village of Rockville on Wadmalaw Island is located on a bluff overlooking Bohicket Creek. This summer community's serene, slow-moving, life-style is reflected in its architecture and landscape. Although houses vary in size and degree of architectural importance, nearly all have spacious porches, raised foundations and large central hallways designed for summer comfort and relaxation. Live oaks draped with Spanish moss and palmettoes dominate the landscape and add to the quaint atmosphere of the community.

Selected architectural examples include the following:

1. Grace Episcopal Church - Built 1836-1840. White clapboard, Greek Revival church. Central lancet-arch entrance flanked on either side by a lancet-arch window with louvered shutter. Four identical windows to each side. Church used as meeting place by Clara Barton after the hurricane of 1893. Church moved to present site in 1884. Originally located on lot behind W.E. Jenkins House.
2. Rockville Presbyterian Church - Built 1850. Simple Greek Revival structure on raised foundation. Facade has two entrances and a pedimented portico supported by two square columns. Steeple, destroyed in 1893 hurricane, was used as a look-out by Confederates in the War Between the States.
3. W.E. Jenkins House - Built c. 1834. Two-story framehouse on high tabby foundation. First-floor, shed-roof porch which partially extends along side walls is supported by slender columns and enclosed with balustrade. Facade has central stairs to porch; two first-floor entrances; five shuttered windows on second level. Planned for excellent ventilation.
4. John F. Townsend House - Built early 1800s. White frame cottage on six-foot tabby foundation. Facade has shed-roof porch supported by slender, square columns and enclosed with fence-type railings. There is a two-sash window with mullion on either side of central entrance. Two pedimented dormers are set in roof.
5. Micah Jenkins House - Built c. 1784. Clapboard, raised cottage over tabby basement. Facade has porch supported by slender columns, one entrance and three shuttered windows. Two shed dormers set in roof. Major alterations in late 19th century consisted of reversing main entrance from land to water side and moving dormers to correspond with asymmetrical entrance. Originally the ferry house for Rock Landing, this is Rockville's oldest building and its only commercial building of historic interest.
6. Major Daniel Jenkins House - Built c. 1834. Mounted on raised tabby foundation, this graceful clapboard house has two storys and is five bays wide. First-floor veranda has slender columns and carved balustrade. Five windows on second-floor level are shuttered with

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

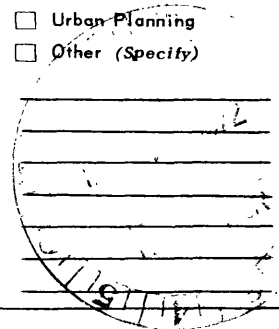
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1824 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rockville, one of Charleston County's oldest surviving summer resorts, is important architecturally, agriculturally, militarily and in the areas of transportation and recreation.

Lawrence Fay Brewster in Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters describes Rockville as "a pleasant, cool and healthful village with shady walks, possessing an Episcopal Church and a Presbyterian Church." However, prior to its development as a summer resort, Rockville consisted of a plantation house built by Benjamin Jenkins who purchased the 496-acre tract which included site of the present village in 1776. At his death the tract was equally divided between his two sons, Samuel and Benjamin, Jr. Benjamin is thought to have built a ferry house on his portion shortly after 1782. This building is now known as the Micah Jenkins House. Some time between 1809 and 1824, Benjamin Jenkins sold his tract to Benjamin Adams who began laying out the town of Rockville. William Seabrook, an Edisto Island planter, acquired the rest of the original 496-acre tract from the heirs of Samuel Jenkins in 1824. Seabrook set up a landing for the Edisto Island Ferry Company and laid out lots for summer homes for his ten children and many relatives.

Architecturally, the buildings within Rockville's historic district have obvious visual unity. All are well ventilated to take full advantage of sea breezes. Many utilize raised foundations and spacious porches, characteristics common to West Indian architecture. Several houses appear to have been year-round residences with architecture adapted for cold weather but still well-ventilated for summer use.

Military Significance: During the War Between the States, Confederate troops used the Presbyterian Church steeple for observing Union ships on Bohicket Creek and Edisto River.

Agriculture Significance: Rockville is agriculturally important because it was developed as a summer retreat for island planters who migrated there to escape the malarial mosquitoes bred in the rice fields and marshes. During Reconstruction, the surrounding plantations were confiscated by the federal government. A widespread

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blessner, Carol K. Rothrock. The Promised Land: The History of the South Carolina Land Commission 1869-1890. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1969.

Brewster, Lawrence Fay. Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1947.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY					O R	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	32	35'	58.3"/80	11'	58.3"						
NE	32	36'	10 "/80	11'	35 "						
SE	32	36'	02.4"/80	11'	28.6"						
SW	32	35'	50.3"/80	11'	48.6"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **49.58 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Nancy R. Ruhf, Historic Preservation Coordinator I**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives & History**      DATE: **1/21/72**

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

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 E. Lee  
**Charles E. Lee**

Title Director, South Carolina Department of Archives & History

Date Mar. 4, 1972

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

Roberton Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/13/72

ATTEST:  
William J. Gandy  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 13	1972

(Number all entries)

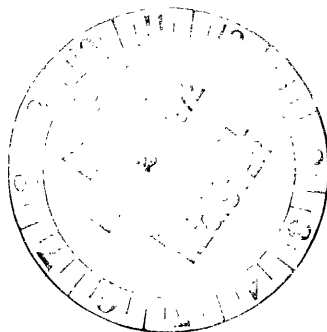
VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

7. Description -- Continuation Sheet #1

entablatures above. Main entrance features handcarved molding, seven-pane transom and sidelights.

7. Old Episcopal Rectory, Rockville - Built 1829 for planter and surveyor, John C. Wilson, this house served as the Episcopal Rectory from 1836-1946. House has two storys with raised basement and is five bays wide. First-floor porch with diminutive columns has been enclosed on northeast end to form a sun room. Radiating transom above main entrance is a rare architectural feature in Rockville.

8. Edward D. Bailey House - Built 1853. Probably Rockville's finest architectural example, this two-story, clapboard house has first-floor veranda with six Tuscan columns and two pilasters supporting. Ornately carved balustrade encloses veranda. Main entrance with extensive molding is flanked on each side by a pair of shuttered windows surmounted with entablatures.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY	
Charleston	
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	JUN 13 1972

(Number all entries)

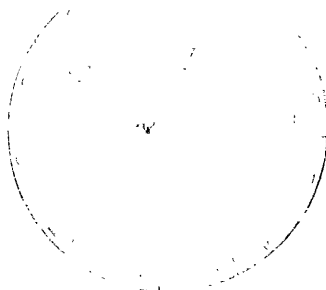
VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE HISTOIRC DISTRICT

8. Significance --- Continutation Sheet #1

rumor that the confiscated land would be divided into forty-acre plots to be given to freedmen resulted in an overwhelming migration of freedmen to the coast thus displacing a large portion of the state's labor force. On September 23, 1865, the sea island planters petitioned President Andrew Johnson for restoration of their lands. Their petition was supported by Brigadier-General Ralph Ely, a sub-agent of the Freedmen's Bureau in Columbia, South Carolina who maintained that only by restoring the land to the original owners could the Negro migration be stopped. President Johnson restored the land to the planters during the winter of 1865-66.

In the area of transportation, Rockville was one of the main landings for the Edisto Island Ferry Company due to the directness of the land route to Charleston. From here, sea island cotton went overland to Charleston for shipment abroad. The village was also a way station for planters going to and from Charleston and their sea island plantations.

From the beginning, Rockville's recreational activities developed along the waterfront where sailing was always the predominant sport. This sailing tradition has continued with the annual Sea Island Regatta held the last week in August since 1890. Sponsored by the Sea Island Yacht Club, the regatta is well known throughout the Southeast with contestants from a number of states participating. Several thousand spectators attend the festive event which is the highlight of the summer season for this quaint resort village.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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South Carolina	
COUNTY	
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	JUN 13 1972

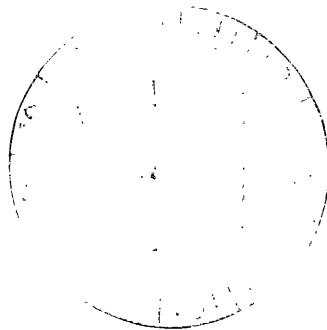
(Number all entries)

VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

9. Major Bibliographical References

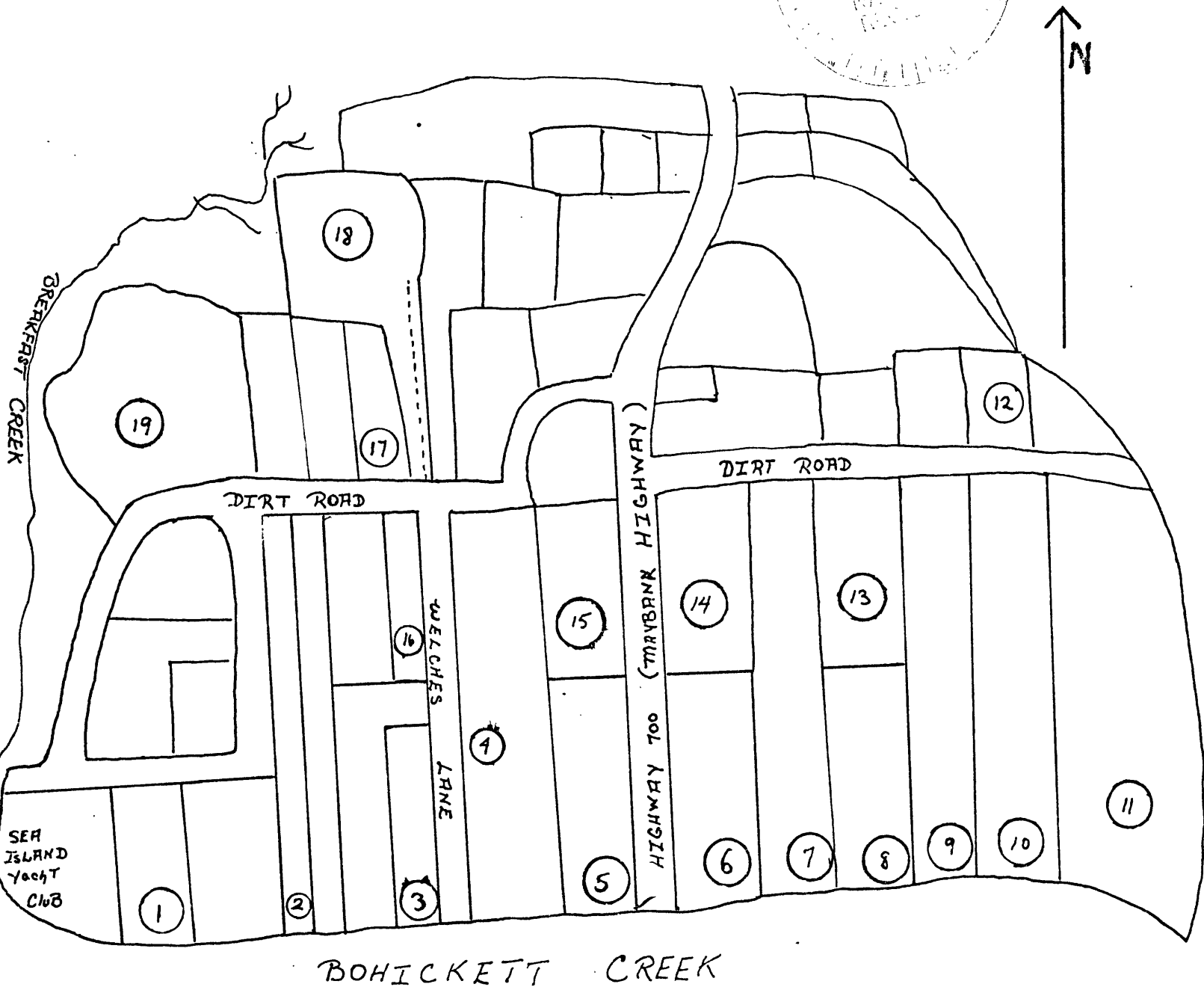
Jenkins, Sophia Seabrook. 1957. Rockville - Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina. Paper read at October, 1957 meeting of Rockville Parent-Teacher Association. Rockville, South Carolina.

Julien, Carl and Martin, Chlotilde R. Sea Islands to Sand Hills. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.



# LEGEND

- |  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| ① Joseph La Roche House - C. 1834                              | ⑧ Micah Jenkins House - C. 1784      | ⑮ Fripp-Morse House - C. 1835            |
| ② John F. Townsend House - C. 1834                             | ⑨ Fanny Wilson House 1897            | ⑯ Wadmalaw Presbyterian Church - C. 1850 |
| ③ T. Ladson Webb House - pre. 1860                             | ⑩ Henry Bailey Whaley House 1897     | ⑰ Presbyterian Manse - C. 1903           |
| ④ Windmill - c. 1922   | ⑪ Sosnowski House 1897               | ⑱ Welch's Lane House - c. 1809           |
| ⑤ Old Rectory 1829   | ⑫ Mary A. Whaley House 1902          | ⑲ Edward D. Bailey House 1855            |
| ⑥ Perry House - c. 1838  | ⑬ Grace (Episcopal) Chapel - C. 1840 |  |
| ⑦ Stevens House - pre 1834<br>OR Maj. Daniel Jenkins<br>HOUSE. | ⑭ W.E. Jenkins House 1838            |  |



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

COUNTY

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

### 1. NAME

COMMON: Rockville Historic District

LAND OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Summer Village of Rockville, bounded west and northwest by Breakfast Creek, south and southeast by marsh and Bohickett Creek, at the

CITY OR TOWN: western end of Highway 700.

Wadmalaw Island

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

COUNTY:

Charleston

CODE

### 3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S. Geological Survey Map of Rockville, South Carolina

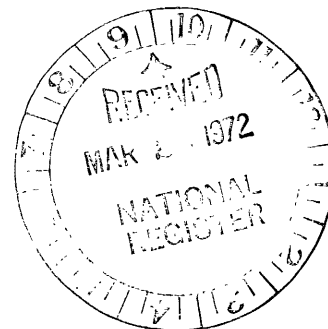
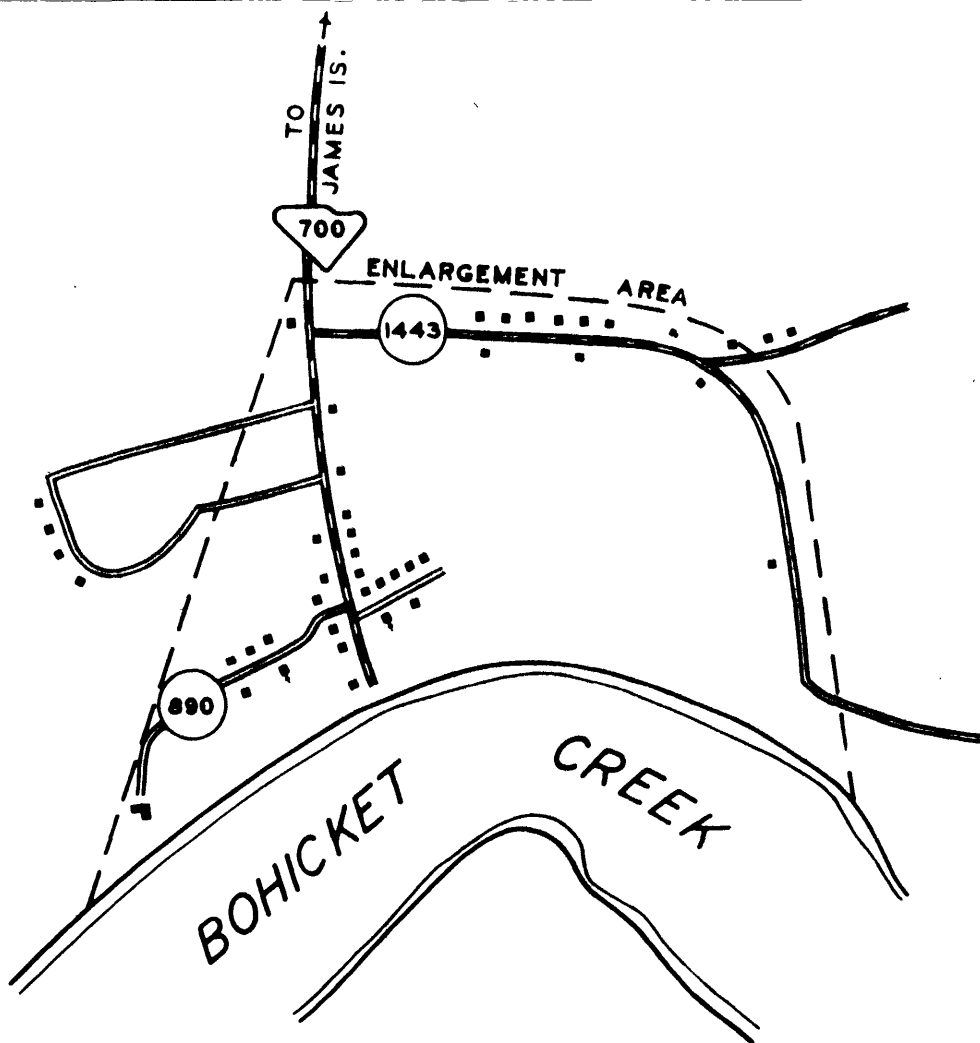
SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1960

### 4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



UNINCORPORATED AREA  
ROCKVILLE  
CHARLESTON COUNTY  
1969

