

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 24 1976
RECEIVED

MAY 13 1976

DATE ENTERED

**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
* * Singleton's Graveyard
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER off South Carolina Highway 261 on Brohun Camp Road -- in Manchester township (6 miles south of Wedgefield)

CITY, TOWN
Wedgefield

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5

STATE
South Carolina

CODE
045

COUNTY
Sumter

CODE
085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER deed

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

allows no further burials

NAME
Sumter County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER
~~122 N. Washington Street, P. O. Box 1456~~ Box 318-A, Courthouse 9/7/76

CITY, TOWN
Sumter

VICINITY OF

STATE
South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sumter County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
North Main

CITY, TOWN
Sumter

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 South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Matthew Singleton came to South Carolina in the mid 18th Century and settled in what is now Sumter County. He became a prominent figure in the area and established a family which was intimately involved in the development of both the Sumter area and of the state.

Singleton's Graveyard is the family cemetery of Matthew Singleton's descendants. There are 43 known graves, and others may exist. The known graves date from 1796 to 1944. The cemetery covers an area 2.18 acres and is surrounded by a stone wall. Included within the cemetery are dogwoods, oaks, crape myrtles, cedars, as well as rose bushes and bridal wreath plants. These remain as vestiges of what various sources indicate was a carefully planned garden.

The cemetery was donated to the Sumter County Historical Society in 1969. It is located in an isolated spot and is in urgent need of restoration. Vegetation has taken over the site, making it almost inaccessible. The protection provided by the National Register is desired in order to help assure the future existence of this graveyard.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Singleton's Graveyard was the family cemetery of one of the most prominent families in the Sumter, South Carolina, area during the late 18th and 19th Centuries. Established by Matthew Singleton, the Singleton family amassed fortunes in land and built large, neighboring plantations. As these plantations were self-contained entities, it was natural a family graveyard was established at Melrose, the plantation of Matthew Singleton. This plantation, however, has long disappeared, as have the other Singleton plantations (except for Kensington in Richland County -- a later Singleton plantation which is listed on the National Register.) Singleton's Graveyard remains not only as the physical evidence of a prosperous and influential family in the Sumter area, but also as sociological evidence of a cultural pattern practiced on plantations throughout the South -- the family graveyard.

In addition to Singletons, others of prominence buried in Singleton's Graveyard include statesman George McDuffie, a bas-relief of whose head is one of two at the front entrance of the South Carolina State House. Evidence suggests that noted Presbyterian minister and political activist, William Tennent, is also buried in Singleton's Graveyard. Singleton's Graveyard stands as evidence of significant eras in South Carolina's development and of people who were prominent in making local, state, and national history.

Agriculture: This graveyard is the family plot of a large agriculture-based family in the Sumter, South Carolina, area. John Singleton's will, dated 1820, lists four plantations and several large tracts of land comprising a total of at least 9,000 acres. The 1852 will of his son, Richard Singleton, lists seven plantations. It is said that these properties comprised some 12,000 acres. At a period in agricultural history when the average bale of cotton in South Carolina was bringing at least \$50.00, Richard Singleton "...was counting his bales by the thousands...."¹

George McDuffie (1790-1851), who was married to Richard Singleton's daughter, Mary Rebecca, was also a large planter. In 1848 McDuffie's holdings included ca. 5000 acres. He was also a promoter of scientific agricultural practices.

Education: In 1818 George McDuffie was elected a trustee of his alma mater, South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina). In 1834, as Governor of South Carolina, he became the president of the trustees. By this time South Carolina College was having difficulties and falling in enrollment. Under McDuffie's leadership the college was reorganized and stabilized.

(continued)

¹. Perceval Reniers, The Springs of Virginia (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941), p. 56.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chapman, John A. History of Edgefield County. Newberry, South Carolina: Elbert H. Aull, 1897.

Green, Edwin L., Ph.D. George McDuffie. Columbia, South Carolina: The State Company, 1936.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.18 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	541260	3743340	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Ruth Rhyne--Santee-Wateree Regional Council)

Katharine N. McNulty

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

December 5, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

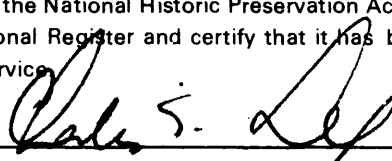
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-29-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

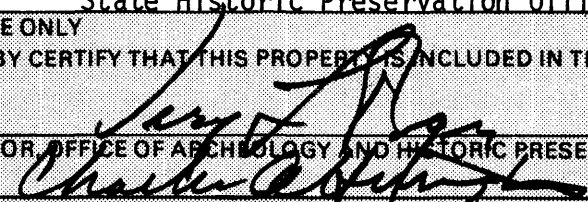
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/13/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST



DATE

5.12.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Military: In 1775 a group of volunteers subscribed to a company to be commanded by Matthew Singleton, with Isham Moore as First Lieutenant. Moore, who was married to the daughter of Matthew Singleton, is buried in Singleton's Graveyard.

George McDuffie was a major general in the South Carolina militia.

Political: George McDuffie began his political career in 1818 as Representative to the South Carolina Legislature. In 1820 he was elected to the United States Congress, where he became renowned for his abilities as an orator and debater. He remained in the House of Representatives until 1834 when he was elected Governor of South Carolina. In 1842 McDuffie succeeded W. C. Preston to the United States Senate. He remained in the Senate until 1846.

McDuffie was a delegate to the Nullification Convention in 1832. At this time he authored the address to the people of the other states explaining South Carolina's position. He warned that if the federal government employed force, South Carolina would prefer to be "the cemetery of freemen, than the habitation of slaves."²

In 1838 Sarah Angelica, daughter of Colonel Richard Singleton, married Abraham Van Buren, son and secretary of President Martin Van Buren. Angelica served as First Lady of the White House during President Van Buren's term of office.

William Tennent (1740-1777), thought to be buried in Singleton's Graveyard was a "most influential politician and member of the Provincial Congress and the House of Assembly under the constitution of 1776."³ In 1775 Tennent was appointed to the Council of Safety, which commissioned him to make a journey through the backcountry of South Carolina to explain the causes of dispute between Britain and the colonies.

Religion: In 1770 the Episcopalians of the High Hills area of South Carolina wrote a petition addressed to the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly requesting assistance in construction of a chapel of ease. Among the petitioners were Isham Moore and Matthew Singleton (who also offered the largest contribution). Although the petition is not recorded in the journal of the Commons House of Assembly, church records list the chapel of ease as the predecessor of the Church of the Holy Cross (National Historic Landmark) at Stateburg.

(continued)

2. Dumas Malone, ed., Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 12 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933), p. 35, taken from the Journal of the Convention of the People of South Carolina, 1833, p. 78.

3. Mabel L. Webber, ed., South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 27 (Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, Company, 1926), p. 134.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

Evidence indicates that a prominent religious figure, William Tennent, is probably buried in Singleton's Graveyard. (Upon Tennent's death his wife recorded in the family Bible, "At Captain Singleton's High Hills of Santee, August 11, 1777, Monday night at a little after ten o'clock, it pleased the Sovereign of the Universe to take to Himself my beloved husband, William Tennent."⁴) Tennent was a noted Presbyterian minister and authored and delivered the petition to the South Carolina House of Assembly, signed by thousands, demanding the disestablishment of the Anglican Church.

Sculpture: The monument above the grave of George McDuffie was designed by Ottaviano Gori of New York. Mr. Gori exhibited at the American Institute in 1842.

Social Humanitarian: Many of those buried in Singleton's Graveyard were involved in activities indicative of a manner and mode of life. In the 1790 census Isham Moore was the largest slaveowner in Claremont County, and John Singleton, Sr., was listed among the largest owners.

In the early 19th Century, John Singleton spent much time at the springs of Virginia, and his son, Richard Singleton, was later a noted figure at the White Sulphur Springs of Virginia. Richard Singleton, a horse enthusiast, was a member of the South Carolina Jockey Club for more than fifty years. In 1827 Singleton won all the Jockey Club purses at one meeting, and in 1850 this distinguished club unanimously declared him an honorary member. These were notable accomplishments considering South Carolina historian, David Ramsay, reported that at one time horse racing drew "...a greater number of speculators than any other amusement or business whatever, and "...no part of America, except Virginia, could produce so many fine horses, either for the course, saddle or draught, as South Carolina."⁵

4. Tennent family Bible, in possession of Mr. E. S. Tennent, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

5. David Ramsay, M.D., History of South Carolina, Vol. II (Newberry, South Carolina: W. J. Duffie, 1858), p. 224.

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- Gregorie, Ann. History of Sumter County. Sumter, South Carolina: Library Board of Sumter County, 1954.
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- Heads of Families at the First Federal Census, Taken in the Year 1790. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908.
- Hollis, Daniel W. South Carolina College, Vol. I. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1961.
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- McConnell, Jane and Burt. First Ladies. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1953.
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- Ramsay, David, M.D. History of South Carolina, Vol. II. Newberry, South Carolina: W.J. Duffie, 1858.
- Reniers, Perceval. The Springs of Virginia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941.
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- Salley, A. S., ed. South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. II. Charleston: Walker, Evans and Cogswell, 1901.
- Tennent, Mary. Light in Darkness. Greensboro, North Carolina: Greensboro Printing Company, 1971.
- Wallace, David D. History of South Carolina. New York: American Historical Society, 1934.
- Webber, Mabel Louise, ed. South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 27. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Company, 1926.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE four

Nicholes, Carrie. "Singleton's Graveyard." (typewritten).

Singleton, Virginia Eliza Green. Genealogy of the Singleton's after their emigration to America. Mimeographed. 1914.

Minutes and Records, 1770-1924, of the Vestry and Wardens of the Church of the Holy Cross of Stateburg, South Carolina. Copied by Addie S. Vance. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina, 1937.

Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Report of the General Staff and Field Officers of the Militia of South Carolina, 1837.

Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Sumter County Wills.