

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# 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 Drayton Hall

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER State Route 61

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

001

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

45

COUNTY

Charleston

CODE

019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME The National Trust for Historic Preservation

work in progress

STREET &amp; NUMBER

740-746 Jackson Place (Headquarters)

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, (RMC) Registrar of Mesnes and Conveyances  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. Box 726

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints &amp; Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

John Drayton, a member of the King's Council, acquired the land on which Drayton Hall was built in 1738, and the building is thought to have been completed in the following four years. It is known that his son, William Henry Drayton, was born there in 1742. Perhaps because of their relatively comfortable position in South Carolina society at this early date, the Draytons were able to invest in the house a degree of architectural elaboration very rare in America in the first half of the eighteenth century. The house has a most distinctive monumentality achieved through its spacious four-room plan and the somewhat vertical proportions of its two-story elevation on a high English basement capped by a double hipped roof. It seems somewhat probable that the hand of a designer or gentleman architect was at work in Drayton Hall, although definite evidence of that fact remains to be found.

The 70' x 52' structure features a carefully-proportioned projecting two-story pedimented portico with superposed Doric and Ionic orders on the western (land) side. Not employed elsewhere in the American colonies until decades later, this element derives from Andrea Palladio's second book of architecture. The high basement and parallel flights of stone steps further enhance the dignity of this impressive facade.

The east or "river" facade, lacks a projecting portico, or even a pavilion, but it has a classical central pediment to emphasize the main axis. The center entrance door and three windows over it, set under the east pediment, are framed by pilasters and topped by triangular and segmental pediments, executed like the west portico, in finely carved white Portland stone imported from England. The east door is also approached by a fine double flight of stone steps.

Most of the rooms on the inside are fully panelled and the mantel pieces and classical cornices throughout are the highest quality. The house further features rich plaster detailing in the ceilings, and a remarkable fully-panelled richly-carved double staircase. The two interior chimneys are placed somewhat to the west of center, creating at the east end on both north and south sides, those rooms of the largest size and the greatest formality. The basement was used as a kitchen, office, storage space, and servant's hall.

It is important to note that the plantation house was part of a composition completed by two flanking, symmetrically placed dependencies, and an adjoining forecourt. Only the foundations of these buildings remain today.

It is more than likely that in the near future, scholars will have available to them a thorough, detailed study of the building and its history, done by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, its owner since 1974.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1738-42

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Drayton Hall is without question one of the finest of all surviving plantation houses in America. Its early date, 1738-42, makes its architectural sophistication all the more remarkable. It is far in advance of the great Virginia Georgian plantation houses for which those of South Carolina have a natural affinity. Because Drayton Hall has been barely touched with "improvements" in the ensuing 200 years, it remains for us one of the most treasured of eighteenth century structures.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 785 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	58,718,4,5	363,617,4,0	B	1,7	58,615,6,5	363,815,6,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	58,549,5	363,616,2,0	D	1,7	58,594,0	363,813,1,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION				E 17 5 8 7 4 6 0 3 6 3 7 6 9 5			

See Continuation Sheet

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

James Dillon; boundary by Cornelius W. Heine, Horace Sheely, Charles Herrington

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark

Designated: Oct. 9, 1960

DATE

Boundary Certified: July 20, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

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Drayton Hall

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2. Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America, Chapel Hill, 1950
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5. Harriet K. Leiding, Historic Houses of South Carolina, Philadelphia, 1921
6. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State, American Guide Series, New York, 1941
7. Samuel G. Stoney, Plantations of the Carolina Low Country, Charleston, 1939
8. Elise Lathrop, Historic Houses of Early America, New York, 1936
9. Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans, New York, 1955
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Verbal Boundary Description

The national historic landmark boundary for Drayton Hall has been drawn to enclose Drayton Hall and grounds which are of primary importance, plus enough of the surrounding area to provide a setting and unintruded vista of the Ashley River from the Drayton Hall property, totaling approximately 785 acres, much of which is heavily wooded or marshland.

Generally, the national historic landmark boundary on the southwest runs 200 feet southwest of Ashley River Road for approximately three-quarters of a mile to protect the row of trees approaching the entrance to Drayton Hall, on the southeast stretches across the Ashley River to a point downriver about three-quarters of a mile from the riverbank in front of Drayton, then 200 feet behind the treeline on the northeast riverbank opposite Drayton Hall, then upriver to the northwest to protect the river vista for about three-quarters of a mile from the front of Drayton Hall.

Beginning at a point 200 feet south of a point on Ashley River Road about 3200 feet southeast of the entrance road to Drayton Hall, the national historic landmark boundary proceeds approximately north 45° east about 2800 feet; then approximately south 39° east for approximately 825 feet; then approximately north 44° east for approximately 1270 feet to the south bank of the creek; then along the south bank of the creek approximately 1300 feet to its intersection with the Ashley River, then approximately north 48° east for about 1000 feet across Ashley River to a point 200 feet northeast of the treeline on the northeast bank of the river; then on a line parallel to and 200 feet northeast of the treeline on the northeast bank of the river for approximately 10,500 feet; then due west about 750 feet across the Ashley River to the west river bank; then in a general southeasterly direction along the west bank of the river for approximately 3300 feet; then approximately south 48° west for approximately 3700 feet to a point about 200 feet southwest of Ashley River Road, then in a line parallel to and 200 feet southwest of Ashley River Road for about 4200 feet in a southeasterly direction to the beginning point.