

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

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: Dorchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Middleton Place Gardens (Arthur Middleton Birthplace)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Middleton Place

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On Ashley River, 12½-miles northwest of Charleston on State Route 61.

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: COUNTY: **Dorchester** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>		Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>					
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cemetery	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>			
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Mr. Charles H. P. Duell

STREET AND NUMBER:
Middleton Place Gardens, Route 4,

CITY OR TOWN: **Charleston** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **29407**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Records Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **St. George and Charleston** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **110-acres out of total of 7,000 acres**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (2 data pages)(South Flanker)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photograph, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three-and-one-half story brick five-bay-wide central block of Middleton Place plantation house was built about 1738. In 1755 the mansion was enlarged by the addition of two two-story brick flankers north and south of the central block. Each structure was about 52-feet wide and 20-feet deep; the north flanker served as a library and conservatory and the south building as a gentleman's guest wing. In 1865 Union troops burned the mansion and wings, leaving only the brick walls standing. In 1868 William Middleton put a roof over the south flanker, which was the least damaged of the three structures, and utilized it as the plantation house. In 1886 a great earthquake felled the ruined walls of the central block and the north flanker.

Through the years much neglect and decay set in, but beginning in 1916, under the supervision of the late Mr. J.J. Pringle Smith, the gardens were restored to their former beauty over a period of several decades.

The original (south) flanker is a two-story brick structure with gable roof and stepped and curvilinear gable ends. In the 1930's the house was enlarged by the addition of a two-story brick service wing, about 18 by 28-feet in size, to the south end. Built on the main axis, this addition is constructed in the 18th-century style. A one-story brick porch was also added along the east(river) facade of the original flanker.

The original wing has a parlor, living room, and dining room on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second. The interior finish dates from the mid-19th-century. The house is furnished with much original Middleton furniture. In excellent condition, the structure is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors. The present owner, however, plans eventually to open the south wing as a historic house exhibit.

To the east, (or in front) of the south wing and the ruined walls of the central block and north wing, are the gardens that were begun in 1741. These rise from the river toward the house in sweeping terraces and at their foot are the paired Butterfly Lakes. Several of the Middletons enlarged and improved these gardens during the first half of the 19th-century: Henry Middleton (1770-1846), Governor of South Carolina and Minister to Russia, introduced the famed camellias, and William Middleton (1809-1883) is credited with planting many thousands of azaleas.

The gardens are open year-round to visitors. The grave of Arthur Middleton is located in a mausoleum in the gardens to the northwest of the plantation house. The estate includes some 7,000 acres. The owner plans to give about 110-acres, which embrace the gardens, the grave, plantation house, and reconstructed farm buildings, to a non-profit foundation that will preserve these features and keep them open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8 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) **1742-1787**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Birthplace and home, from 1742 to 1787, of Arthur Middleton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence for South Carolina, planter, politician, and soldier. The south wing, c. 1755, of the original Middleton Place Plantation house still stands and Arthur Middleton is buried in the family graveyard near the residence.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Arthur Middleton, 1742-1787.

Arthur Middleton was born on June 26, 1742 at "Middleton Place," on the Ashley River west of Charleston, South Carolina. His father Henry Middleton (1717-1784), was one of the greatest landowners in South Carolina, owning nearly 20 plantations with a total of 50,000-acres and about 800 slaves. Arthur Middleton was educated in Charleston and England. He studied law at the Middle Temple, London, from 1757 to December 1763. In 1764 he married Mary Izard by whom he had nine children.

From 1764 to 1768 he was a member of the colonial House Assembly. From May 1768 to September 1771 Middleton and his wife toured England and southern Europe. On their return to South Carolina they took up residence at "Middleton Place," which he inherited through his mother, Mary Williams Middleton. In 1772 Middleton was again elected to the Common's House of Assembly; he was a member of the first and second provincial congresses (1775-1776); and served on the committee which framed a constitution for South Carolina (February, 1776). He was elected a delegate to the Second Continental Congress and appeared in Philadelphia to take his seat on May 20, 1776 and he was present to sign the Declaration of Independence. In January 1777 he was reelected and continued to serve in Congress until October 1777. He was reelected to the Continental Congress in 1778, 1779, and 1780, but he failed to attend any of these sessions. In 1775 Middleton was chosen governor of South Carolina but declined this office. During the siege of Charleston in 1780 he served in the militia, was taken prisoner when the British captured the city, and was sent to St. Augustine, Florida, as a prisoner of war. Exchanged in July 1781, he served in the Continental Congresses of 1781-1782.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

197

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XII, 599. Article by Katharine
 Elisabeth Crane.
Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters
of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 9-10.

South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State (American Guide Series)
 (New York, 1946), 285-286.

Edward T.H. Shaffer, Carolina Gardens (3rd Ed., New York, 1963).

Peter Coats, Great Gardens of the Western World (New York, 1963).

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	32 ° 54 ' 27 "	80 ° 08 ' 21 "		32 53 59	80 08 12	
SE	32 ° 54 ' 05 "	80 ° 07 ' 54 "		Location of House		
SW	32 ° 53 ' 48 "	80 ° 08 ' 14 "				
NW	32 ° 54 ' 09 "	80 ° 08 ' 40 "				

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:
 Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 6/14/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
 801 - 19th Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
--	---

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Dorchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

2. Boundaries for the Historic Site Middleton Place:

Approximately 110-acres, including the Original (south) Wing, sites of the main plantation house and north wing, Arthur Middleton's grave, the original plantation gardens, and the restored and reconstructed outbuildings, starting at the northeast corner on the south bank of the Ashley River at latitude 32° 54' 20" N. - longitude 80° 08' 12" W., proceeding along the south bank of the Ashley River for about 2300-feet to the southeast corner at lat. 32° 54' 00" N. - long. 80° 07' 59" W., then continuing to the southwest in a straight line along the top of the high ridge that forms the southeast edge of the mill pound for about 1800-feet to the southwest corner on the south shoulder of State Route 61 at lat. 32° 53' 48" N. - long. 80° 08' 14" W., then going northwest along the southern edge of State Route 61 for about 3100-feet to the northwest corner, which has a private road running to the northeast, at lat. 32° 54' 09" N. - long. 80° 08' 40" W., then returning along the west edge of the private road, going in a straight line to the northeast for about 2700-feet, to the beginning, the northeast corner located on the south bank of the Ashley River. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in black ink on a copy of U.S Geological Survey Map: Stallville Quadrangle, South Carolina, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1957, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

Total acreage in Middleton Place (May 1971) exceeds 7,000 acres. Of this total only approximately 110-acres are included in the historic site boundaries.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Dorchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Middleton Place Gardens
(Arthur Middleton Birthplace)

8. Significance (1)

After the Revolution Middleton repaired the damages suffered by his plantations, devoted himself to planting, and became a member of the racing club and of the hunting club of St. Georges' parish; he was a original trustee of the College of Charleston (founded 1770, chartered, 1785). Middleton died at Goose Creek, South Carolina, on January 1, 1787 and was buried in the family burial ground at Middleton Place.

History of the House

The three-and-one-half story main brick house was built by John Williams, Henry Middleton's father-in-law, about 1738. The mansion was enlarged about 1755 by the addition of north and south brick flankers. During the Revolution the British sacked the place, taking away its objects of arts, pillaging its stores, and in general despoiling the plantation. The mansion, however, was left standing. In February 1865, during the Civil War, Union troops burned the mansion, leaving only the brick walls standing. The ruined walls of the north (or left) unit and the central block were felled by the earthquake of 1886. The south or right-hand wing was restored and enlarged along 18th-century lines in the 1930's.

About 1741 Henry Middleton began to lay out the famous gardens that surround the plantation house. For about 10 years 100 slaves are said to have labored to complete the 45-acre garden and 16-acre lawn. The Middleton Place property has remained in the possession of the Middleton family to the present.