

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered 7/12/85

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Laurel Hill

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Approx. 5 miles west of McClellanville, about one-half mile south of U.S. Hwy. 17, at end of private drive NA not for publication

city, town McClellanville NA vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Charleston code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Richard L. Morrison

street & number 203 Bolick Street

city, town Georgetown n/a vicinity of state South Carolina 29440

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Mesne Conveyance

street & number 2 Courthouse Square

city, town Charleston state South Carolina 29401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>December 1983</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Laurel Hill is a one-and-one-half story, braced-frame residence located near Doe Hall Creek in rural Charleston County. The building is believed to have been constructed ca. 1853 for Richard T. Morrison II. In December 1983 the house was moved to its present location approximately one-half mile away from the original site. In spite of the relocation, Laurel Hill retains its integrity as an antebellum vernacular farmhouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Laurel Hill is representative of the basic tenets of vernacular frame construction and residential design popular in South Carolina in the early and middle nineteenth century. The building has a tall open pier foundation, built of cinder block with a veneer of old brick. The structural framework is hewn timber with mortise-and-tenon joints secured with trunnels. Exterior sheathing is weatherboard. Roofing is standing-seam metal. The facade (east elevation) is five bays wide. The original porch, whose configuration is not known, was replaced during the early twentieth century with a new porch, which was retained in the relocation. This porch has turned posts, simple pickets, and a hipped roof with exposed rafter tails; it spans the breadth of the facade. A new stair provides access to the porch. The facade has a central doorway with a single-leaf door and a transom. The windows are nine-over-nine, double-hung sash. Three gabled dormers with six-over-six sash pierce the forward slope of the gabled roof.

The side elevations have four bays each, with sash matching that of the facade, and two small windows in each gable end. The rear (west elevation) is five bays. Its original porch was replaced, also during the early twentieth century, with a small hip-roofed porch. This porch was removed in the 1983 relocation, and rebuilt in a shed-roofed configuration, spanning approximately two-thirds of the rear elevation. A small shed-roofed room on the north end of the porch contains bathrooms. Three dormers pierce the rear slope of the roof.

Interior

Laurel Hill has a central-hall, double-pile plan, a configuration common in the South Carolina vernacular houses of the period. The broad central hall has wide pine flooring, simple baseboards, and sheetrock replacing the original plaster. An open-stringer stair with a simple balustrade rises from the hall to the attic. The main reception rooms have intact mantels, baseboards, and door and window casings. Most of the original doors, with their self-closing hinges, are intact. One room, now used as the kitchen, was renovated in 1983 with the structural frame exposed in walls and ceilings. The attic space has bedrooms and baths.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates ca. 1853 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Laurel Hill is a one-and-one-half story, weatherboarded frame residence set on brick piers. Reportedly constructed ca. 1853 by Richard T. Morrison II, Laurel Hill was moved a short distance to its present rural location in Charleston County in 1983. Laurel Hill is architecturally significant as a very intact example of a mid-nineteenth-century lowcountry vernacular farmhouse. Laurel Hill was the home of prominent planter, Richard T. Morrison II, who was involved in the development of McClellanville and in the political and community affairs of St. James Santee Parish in the nineteenth century. In spite of its relocation, Laurel Hill retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; it conveys architectural significance through its intact historical features.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Laurel Hill Plantation was purchased in a 688-acre tract by Richard T. Morrison II (1815-1910) in 1853.¹ Morrison reportedly built the present house in the same year, and by 1860 had become one of the wealthiest planters of St. James Santee Parish with land worth approximately \$9,000 and a personal estate valued at more than \$54,000.² Morrison played an important role in the development of McClellanville in the mid-1850s; in 1859 he donated land for a new schoolhouse in the town.³ Morrison served as an officer of the congregation of the Wappetaw Congregational Church, as magistrate in St. James Parish in 1855, and was elected to the Forty-fourth General Assembly from St. James Santee Parish.⁴ Morrison also practiced agricultural innovations on his plantation such as the drainage of swamp and lowlands.⁵

Laurel Hill Plantation was divided by Richard T. Morrison II into equal parts and given to the nine children of his first wife, probably sometime in the 1870s.⁶ The house was later bought by Morrison's grandson, Richard T. Morrison IV, who continued to farm the plantation. The present site of the house is said to have once belonged to Richard T. Morrison II as part of an 1851 state grant.⁷

Architecture

The house from Laurel Hill Plantation is a relatively intact example of the antebellum braced-frame vernacular farmhouses that typified rural South Carolina in the early and middle nineteenth century. The plan, composition, construction technology, and detailing of the house offer solid artifactual evidence which is intact and valid despite the relocation of the house, the reconstruction of the foundation, and the new porches. The building relates the basic conception of house-form in the area and time; the means by which this conception would be translated by the native builders into a solid building; and the available construction tools and technology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Awendaw

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	6	3	6	8	7	0	3	6	5	8	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Laurel Hill nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #731-0-0, drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The ~~nominated boundary includes only the historic house and its immediate setting.~~

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debra J. Allen, National Register Assistant - John E. Wells, Architectural Historian

organization South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History date December 1984

street & number P.O. Box 11, 669 Capitol Station telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

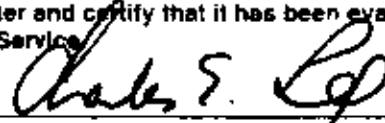
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 7/16/85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

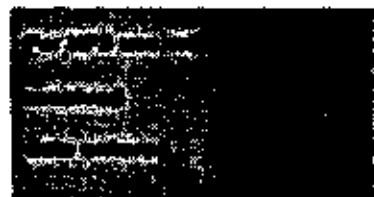
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

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FOOTNOTES

¹Book V-12, pp. 15-16, Charleston County Deeds, Charleston County Courthouse, Charleston, S. C.; "R. T. Morrison Has Fine Bean Crop on His Ancestral Acres," undated article in William P. Baldwin, The Visible Village: McClellanville 1860-1945, (McClellanville, South Carolina: By the Author, 1984), following page 90 of the text.

²Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: South Carolina (Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1934), microcopy no. M-653, roll no. 1215, Charleston County, p. 143; McCrady Plats, #5475, Charleston County Microfilms, roll no. C3189, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.; Baldwin, following page 90 of the text.

³David Doar, A Sketch of the Agricultural Society of St. James Santee, South Carolina and An Address on the Traditions and Reminiscences of the Parish. Delivered before Society on 4th July, 1907, (Charleston, S. C.: Calder-Fladger Co., 1908), pp. 28 and 30; Book Y, pp. 85-86, Charleston County Deeds.

⁴Petrona Royall McIver, "Wappetaw Congregational Church," South Carolina Historical Magazine 58 (April 1957): 91; Directory of the City of Charleston, 1855, n.p.; Joan Reynolds Faunt and Robert E. Rector, comps., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, vol. 1, (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974), p. 384.

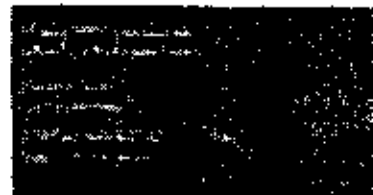
⁵News & Courier (Charleston, S. C.), 10 August 1910.

⁶Baldwin, page following page 90 of the text; Book B, p. 71, Charleston County Plats, South Carolina Departments of Archives and History.

⁷Vol. P, No. 6, p. 626, South Carolina State Grants, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

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Continuation sheet 2

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baldwin, William P. The Visible Village: McClellanville 1860-1945. McClellanville, South Carolina: By the Author, 1984.

Charleston, S. C. Charleston County Courthouse. Charleston County Deeds. Books V and Y.

Columbia, S. C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. McCrady Plats. Plat 5475. State Grants. Vol. P, No. 6.

Directory of the City of Charleston, 1855. N. p.

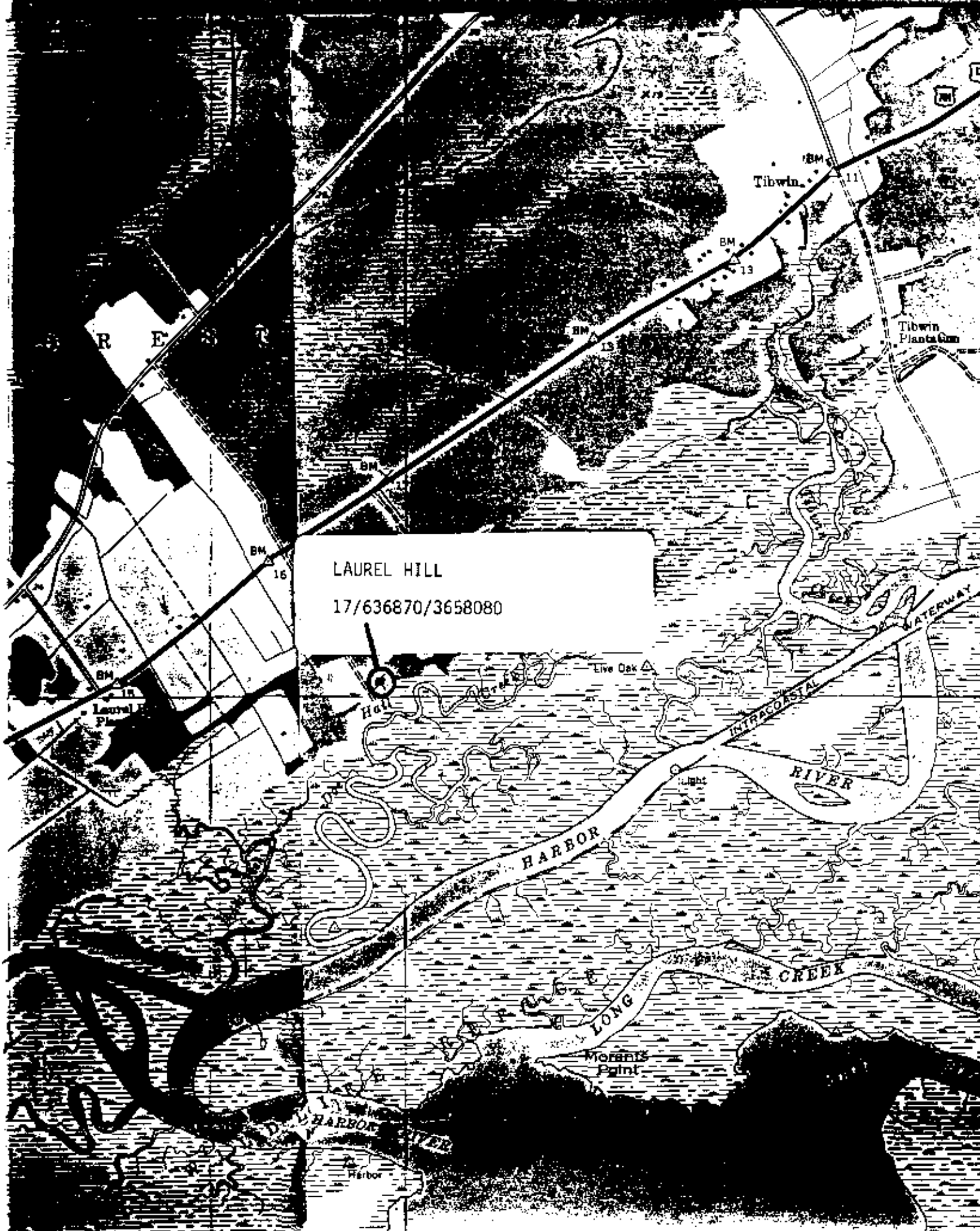
Doar, David. A Sketch of the Agricultural Society of St. James Santee, South Carolina and An Address on the Traditions and Reminiscences of the Parish. Delivered before Society on 4th July, 1907. Charleston, S. C.: Calder-Fladger Co., 1908.

Faunt, Joan Reynolds, and Rector, Robert E., comps. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Vol. 1. Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974.

McIver, Petrona Royall. "Wappetaw Congregational Church." South Carolina Historical Magazine 58 (April 1957): 84-93.

News & Courier (Charleston, S. C.), 10 August 1910.

Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: South Carolina. Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1934.



LAUREL HILL

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