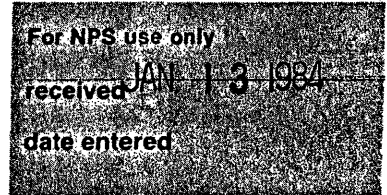


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number A


Page 1

G A, Camden County, St. Marys vic.

Description and Significance of Districts and
Individual Properties Within Cumberland Island National Seashore

✓ DUNGENESS HISTORIC DISTRICT *(Cumberland Island National Seashore, M.A.)
Cumberland Island*

Description:

 Cumberland Island, the Dungeness district contains more than 29 structures, the remains of the formal gardens and vegetable gardens, three cemeteries, and two archeological zones. All structures, with the exception of the Tabby House and the Greene-Miller Cemetery, date to the Carnegie era.

The ruins of the Dungeness mansion (HS-60) are on the same site as the old Greene-Miller Mansion. Andrew Peebles of Pittsburgh was the architect and the firm of McKenzie and Patterson, the building contractor. The original structure was about 120 by 56 feet, two-stories high with an attic, and built in the Queen Anne and Stick styles. A tower at the east end was 90 feet high. The outer walls consisted of a light-colored granite and the roof was covered with Vermont slate. The mansion, completed in 1885, was of relatively modest proportions and style when compared to the huge structure of later years.

After her husband, Thomas M. Carnegie, died in 1886, and her nine children grew older, Mrs. Carnegie expanded and remodeled her home adding considerably to its dimensions and giving it a more elaborate style and formal design. To accomplish this, she employed the well known architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns of Boston. These changes occurred between 1890 and 1905. The remodelling altered the style, producing a larger and more elegant Italianate structure measuring 200 feet by 90 feet. An enclosed terrace brought the dimensions to 250 by 150 feet. According to one source, the mansion contained more than 50 rooms.

Last utilized in 1925, the mansion stood in decaying splendor until destroyed by fire in 1959. Today it is in total ruins. The tall chimneys dominate the remains of the lower, slender masonry spines and irregular wall. All these deteriorated elements contrast sharply with the bulky concrete elements that are nearly in their original form. The effect is heightened by the numerous steel beams, lintels and posts, deeply rusted but still sharp and regular in outline, some still in their original position, some askew, others collapsed into the basement. An interesting contrast exists between the mutilated building and the nearly intact retaining walls at the edges of the verandas and the grass terraces. The structure has been stabilized by the National Park Service.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 2

The formal approach to the mansion [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] led to the main gateway of monumental flanking walls incorporating steps and tall piers capped with spheres and opened into a large grassy area surrounding the main house. Grassy terraces, cast-stone piers, steps, walls, and benches flanked the paved verandas of the mansion.

One of the most significant areas in the Dungeness district is the formal garden and vegetable garden. Although now in a state of deterioration, having been abandoned since the mansion fell into ruins, the outlines of these gardens are still distinguishable. The north rim of the garden is enclosed by a high wall made of cut stone. Two wide stone stairways led into the sunken garden. The formal garden was built essentially on the site of the garden that formed a part of the Greene-Miller Dungeness. The Carnegies continued to grow many of the plants and flowers enjoyed by the earlier owners and also added to the variety of plants. The family grew much of their own food, as well.

A smaller formal garden [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This garden, with concrete curbing, ponds, and oyster shell walks is heavily overgrown so that the extent and design are no longer evident. Several exotic species of plants are in evidence. There has been little renovation of the garden area.

The mansion ruins are the focal point of the Dungeness grounds. Nearby, on three sides, lie the Tabby House, the sunken gardens, and the Recreation/Guesthouse. Other structures are scattered about the property, with a concentration of servants' residences known as "the village" situated east of the main house.

The Tabby House (HS-61) may have been designed by Phineas Miller, second husband of Catherine Greene, widow of General Nathanael Greene. Although it is not known with certainty what purpose this structure originally served, Frederick Albion Ober's article of 1880 suggests that this might have been the gardener's house. After the Carnegies purchased the land the structure was remodelled, particularly the interior, to serve at various times as the manager's office and schoolhouse for the Carnegie children. The building, constructed of tabby (a concrete of lime, aggregate, and oyster shells), is a one-story structure with a gable wood-shingled roof, four dormer windows (two in the front and two in the rear), and a central chimney. There are two doors on the front (northeast). Originally there were two doors at the rear, but these were converted (probably during the Carnegie period) to windows. There are four windows on the southwest, one window on the northwest, and one on the southeast. A five-bay porch on the front (northside) runs the length of the building. The porch roof

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 3

is supported on six square wooden pillars which rest on a 3-foot wall constructed of tabby. The porch appears to date from the late 19th century. The interior is still divided into two rooms, with central back to back fireplaces. The Tabby House measures 44 feet, 4 inches long by 27½ feet deep, including the porch. It has been restored by the National Park Service to represent the estate manager's office of the Carnegie period.

A list of other existing structures from the Carnegie period follows. The standing structures all contribute to the significance of the historic district, though several are deteriorated beyond repair.

1. Recreation-Guest House, (HS-64). This was the most outstanding of the support structures in the district. Known as the "The Pool," it was built around 1900 in the Queen Anne style. The architect was John W. Ingle of New York and the builder, James McGriffin. Part of the structure was one-story and the remainder two-stories. Constructed of wood-frame clad with cedar shingles it contained a heated tile swimming pool, steamroom, baths, recreation room, squash court, and guest rooms on the second floor. There were two large fireplaces at each end of the recreation room. The building is 150 feet long. The structure is in a deteriorated condition; in early 1982 the central portion of the building collapsed.

2. The Grange (HS-78). This two-story structure, built between 1895 and 1900,

Of no particular stylistic derivation, the exterior has remained unchanged, while the interior has undergone some modifications over the years. In earlier years it served as the residence of the manager of Dungeness and was later the residence of one of Mrs. Carnegie's daughters. Today it is part of a Reserve Life Estate held by a Carnegie descendent.

3. Carriage House (HS-62). This large building is a two-story, H-shaped frame structure covered with stucco. The roof is metal and contains several hip roof dormers on all four sides. In the early Carnegie period, it served as a carriage house and stables. In later years the structure was used as a garage for automobiles. The second story contained quarters for employees. The building is in good condition and is presently being used by the Park as a maintenance headquarters. The dimensions are 148 by 139 feet.

4. Woodworking Shop (HS-76). This shop was used to fabricate much of the woodwork and repairs at Dungeness and at other Carnegie properties on the island, and was an important element of the operation of the Carnegie

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 4

estates. Both the west and east ends consisted of a high one-story section. The east end had a walkway running its length with a small storage loft. The rear section is two²-stories over an open shed or work area. The structure has been reconstructed and serves as a storage area for lumber and wooden structural materials.

5. Dormitory (HS-67). A two-story frame building with medium hip roof and a screened porch on the front and open porch on the rear, the building measures 60 x 30 feet. Built in the 1890s, this structure was probably used to house Carnegie employees. Since 1975 it has served as a kitchen for the Youth Conservation Corps and housing for NPS personnel on short term assignments. Building is in fair to good condition.

6. Dairy Manager's House (HS-68). This single-story wood frame building has an exterior chimney on the south and a shed roof porch on the west side. Four gable-roof dormers are on the front of this structure and three on the rear or east side. All windows are 6 over 6 and screened. The house was built about 1900 and was the residence of the dairy manager. Good condition.

7. Dormitory (HS-69). [REDACTED] this two-story frame building has porches on the first and second stories on the front and a shed porch on the rear. Built around 1900, it was originally used as a dormitory for Carnegie employees, and has had recent use as a dormitory for the Youth Conservation Corps.

8. Smokehouse (HS-70). A small stucco structure commonly known as the smokehouse, though that use is doubtful since it has large windows on two sides. Presently contains sinks and a walk-in icebox. Condition is good to fair.

9. Laundry Building (HS-71). A wood and stucco building with a hip tin roof. There is an interior chimney set off-center to one side. This structure served as the laundry for Dungeness and possibly other of the Carnegie estates. The structure is 50 x 21.5 feet. Condition is good.

10. Dungeness Kitchen (HS-72). This wood frame structure consists of a main building (38 x 52) and a rear wing, measuring 22 x 44 feet, connected to the main structure by an open porch or breezeway. Both have hip roofs with louvered cupolas. There are three interior and two exterior chimneys.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 5

Structure is in good condition. Historically this was the kitchen and dining area for the workers on the estate. Served as the recreation building for the YCC. Condition is good.

11. Water Tower Foundations (HS-73). Concrete foundations stand 12-18 inches above grade.

12. Dungeness Carriage House Cistern (HS-74). Eight-sided structure standing 12-18 inches above grade. Historically, covered with an octagonal roof which has been removed. Now filled in with soil.

13. Black Servants Quarters (HS-75). Two-story frame structure with weatherboarding and hip roof of tin. A two-story porch is on the south side of the building with a center stairway providing access to the second floor porch and rooms. The building historically served as a dormitory for black employees and is presently used for training and meetings. with housing on second floor. Condition is good to excellent.

14. Waterwheel House Foundations (HS-80). Walls and pillars of tabby

15. Greenhouse (HS-81). Wooden greenhouse rested on walls of tabby some three feet high. A few panes of glass remain in place. Wooden structure is termite infested and badly deteriorated.

16. Garden House (HS-82). Stucco building with tin hip roof and two louvered ventilators. The rear wall is part of the garden wall. There are no windows and one door. This structure may pre-date the Carnegie era. Measuring 33x16.5 feet, it is in fair condition.

17. Dungeness Dock and Boat House (HS-83). Recently restored by the National Park Service, this structure is in good to excellent condition. Of frame construction with weatherboard siding, the boat house measures 27x15.5 feet.

18. Dock Cistern and Captain's House Cistern (HS-84-86). The Dock Cistern is an octagonal structure with a tin roof still in place. It is 72 feet in circumference. A cupola completes the structure. The Captain's House Cistern is identical and has been restored. Both were used to store rain water and are in good condition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 6

19. Icehouse (HS-85). Frame building measuring 34 x 56.5 feet. Recently preserved by the National Park Service, this structure has weatherboarded siding and a gable roof of tin. A gable roof cupola and ventilator extend the length of the building. A two-story structure with large doors on the west and north and three small doors in vertical alignment on east. The structure appears to have been used as an ice and storage building during the Carnegie period and is presently used for a visitors contact station. Excellent condition.

20. Captain's House (HS-87). Frame building with tin roof and weatherboarded exterior. Gable roof has three gable roof dormers on west. Rear wing is also gable roofed. Dimensions are 33x55 feet. Structure has been restored and preserved by NPS and is in good condition.

21. Poultry Manager's House (HS-91), Chicken Houses (HS-92-100) and Children's Playhouse (HS-101). These eleven structures are all in very deteriorated condition. The roof on the two-story Poultry Manager's House has collapsed. The nine chicken houses each measure eight feet square and are frame with shed roofs. The wood frame children's playhouse had partially collapsed in 1976. All are termite ridden.

22. Dungeness Silo and Dairy Barn Foundations (HS-89 and 90). The silo rests on a brick foundation and is 30 feet high. Much of the roof is gone and the structure is termite ridden. Condition very poor. All that remains of the dairy barn are foundations.

23. Ruins of Pergola (HS-102). Walls of tabby [redacted] e [redacted] Walls extend for about 75 feet and are 14 feet apart. The walls are 3-3.5 feet high with several pillars extending above the east wall another four feet. Good condition. This has been determined to have been a covered garden walk leading to the small formal garden.

24. Dungeness Seawall (HS-106).. [redacted] Built of stone, the seawall is being restored and stabilized by the NPS.

The Greene-Miller Cemetery (HS-63) contains the remains of Catherine Greene Miller, her second husband, Phineas Miller, her daughter, Louisa C. Shaw and the latter's husband, James Shaw. Buried outside the cemetery walls, but adjoining it, are the remains of John and Catherine Rikart, servants of the Carnegies. General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, friend of General Nathanael Greene and father of General Robert E. Lee, died on the island in 1818 while visiting Dungeness and was buried in the Greene-Miller Cemetery. In 1913, his remains were removed and reinterred in Virginia, next to the remains of his famous son. Mrs. Lucy Coleman Carnegie had a memorial placed on the original gravesite that remains to this day.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 7

A tabby wall 42x30 feet and 3 feet high surrounds the cemetery. The extension where the Rikarts are buried measures 15 x 19½ feet. The cemetery is in good condition.

The Carnegie Cemetery (HS-88), maintained by descendents of the Carnegies, contains 16 remains. Of this number, 14 are members of the Carnegie family, including Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morrison Carnegie.

A low tabby wall surrounds two unmarked burials [redacted]. It is believed that these graves are of early Stafford inhabitants.

Archeological Complexes

Dungeness South (NPS 9 CAM 5) is the most extensive archeological site on Cumberland Island, extending [redacted]

make How

[redacted] An early description of the site refers to: "A mound of shells, the accumulation of centuries and the result of countless Indian feasts, rose high above the southern marsh of Cumberland. A forest of live oaks surround it on three sides....The summit of this shell mound was leveled [redacted] and a terraced area of an acre or more constructed with the shells."

This site has been vandalized, excavated, leveled, and mined for almost 200 years. Very few portions remain intact. One area [redacted] is both an historic dump and an extensive shell ridge which extends south into the surrounding marsh. [redacted]

NPS 9 CAM 5 provides a ceramic collection which would suggest use over an extended period of time. Excavation and surface collection revealed material which can be assigned to the Bilbo culture as well as later material running from Deptford through San Marcos ware.

Dungeness Wharf (NPS 9 CAM 6), a second archeological site in the district, is one of the largest remaining [redacted]

The site has been extensively damaged by wave action created by shipping along the inland waterway and currently supports a mixed oak-hardwood and pine forest. It has been extensively used during historic times and there remains in this area today portions of Carnegie Tung Nut Tree groves. NPS 9 CAM 6 is also the traditional location of the Spanish Mission of San Pedro established by the Franciscans in 1587.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 8

Significance:

The Carnegie's Dungeness estate [redacted] Greene's widow and her new husband, Phineas Miller, constructed an elegant residence and exotic gardens at Dungeness, exploited the islands timber resources, and grew acres of cotton as well. The early Dungeness was known for its gracious hospitality and the conviviality of its hostess, Catherine "Kitty" Greene Miller. When Phineas and Catherine Miller died in 1803 and 1814 the plantation passed to Catherine's daughter, Louisa. Louisa Greene Shaw planted her holdings, experimenting with cotton, olives, and tropical fruits, and harvesting above-average yields. Phineas Miller Nightingale, Louisa's nephew, inherited the plantation upon Louisa's death in 1831, and continued its cotton production. By the end of the Civil War the mansion and plantation were in ruins, and upon Nightingale's death in 1871 Dungeness passed to a creditor. Thomas Carnegie and his wife Lucy acquired their first acreage on Cumberland Island in 1881, from there increasing their holdings to nearly 90 per cent of the island.

Today's Dungeness district displays evidences of the early plantation in some of its tabby structures, and the Greene-Miller cemetery. The prehistoric period is represented in two archeological sites. Like the antebellum Dungeness plantation, the Carnegie's Dungeness was renowned in the South for its beautiful house and grounds. Dungeness was the heartbeat of Cumberland Island during the Carnegie era; from the mansion Mrs. Carnegie controlled the construction program, maintenance, livestock, poultry, and food production, and other activities through her large staff of employees. The many service buildings and employee dormitories illustrate the types of activities over which Mrs. Carnegie prevailed. As the Carnegies' second home, the mansion was often the location for parties, receptions, and many other social functions; the Carnegies frequently invited guests who enjoyed the many sporting activities of the era, such as golf, tennis, swimming, hunting, and riding on the island.

The Dungeness Historic District is significant in the areas of archeology, architecture, community planning, agriculture, landscape architecture, and leisure/resorts.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 9

Archeology

In compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, archeological salvage of eroding prehistoric sites 9 CAM 5 and 9 CAM 6 was initiated. Problem domains included: 1) time, space and subsistence characteristics of the historical occupations of Nathanael Greene and the Carnegies; and 2) verification or refutation of the location of the Spanish mission of San Pedro Mocamo.

Evidence gathered from surface collections, maps, and test excavations support earlier predictions that the mission has been lost to wave action and is no longer an entity. Radio-metric samples suggest that 9 CAM 6 is a late prehistoric occupation that was not likely occupied during the Spanish period and is the site of the Indian village of Tacatacuru. However, field studies show that as much as 53% of the prehistoric village has eroded in the water.

Excavations [redacted], both portions of 9 CAM 5, reveal that it is an early occupation (500 BC) that may have been utilized throughout the prehistoric period. It is possible that 9 CAM 5 and 6 are actually one extensive site, portions of which were utilized at different times. The paucity of cultural material allowed only limited testing [redacted] Vandalism, land alterations, and historic mining of prehistoric shell middens have destroyed the majority of both historic and prehistoric occupations. Remnants of the later Carnegie tung nut groves are still found at Dungeness Wharf.

The two archeological sites, Dungeness South (NPS 9 CAM 5) and Dungeness Wharf (NPS 9 CAM 6), are felt to be significant because they provide the research potential for increasing our concept of time, space, and development of the above occupations at Cumberland Island. Research here will help define the specific nature of aboriginal man/land relationships of coastal Georgia and the the barrier islands. The relationships and interaction between the Georgia mainland and the barrier islands cultural occupations is poorly defined. Scientific analysis of these sites will provide data to generate cultural dynamic models for two pressing questions: are the barrier islands and the mainland representative of differing social groups; or does one reflect seasonal exploitation by the other? Research at these sites will provide much needed information on ceramic modifications found in this area; do these differences reflect local indigenous modification, diffusion, or migration? Cumberland Island and the surrounding vicinities are representative of an estuarine subsistence economy. The relationship of this ecotone with interior portions of the Georgia Coastal Plain can be more adequately explained through such research.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 10

Agriculture:

The first white settlers on Cumberland Island were attracted by its timbering potential. Phineas and Catherine Miller developed a timber industry in live oak and red cedar, selling lumber to help build a budding U.S. Navy, and also planted cotton on their plantation acreage. A friend of the Millers and frequent visitor to Dungeness was Eli Whitney, whom they encouraged in his invention of the cotton gin and lent financial assistance. Louisa Shaw, daughter of Catherine Greene Miller, and her nephew, Phineas Nightingale, improved upon the sea island cotton cultivation methods at Dungeness and became involved with planters on Sapelo and St. Simons Islands in experimentation with foreign crops. Oranges and olives became big export items during this period. Cultivation of cotton and other crops ceased with the Civil War, but began anew during the Carnegie period. Lucy Carnegie cultivated a great variety of foodstuffs to minimize the amount that would otherwise require shipping. The Dungeness silo attests to growth and storage of crops near Dungeness. During the Depression several of the Carnegie heirs attempted to utilize the island's resources to bring a financial return. One experimented with producing tung oil from tung trees, several of which can still be found in the wharf area. Because of the contributions of early Dungeness residents to the timbering industry, improvement of sea island cotton and ginning, cultivation of foreign crops, and the continuation of the agricultural tradition under the Carnegies, Dungeness is associated with agricultural efforts from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries.

Great of the 1930s

Architecture:

The Dungeness mansion, with its surrounding gardens and support structures, was one of the grandest estates found on the Georgia coast at the turn of the century. The designs that the prominent architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns were noted for throughout the U.S. were well represented in the sweeping verandas and arched openings of their addition to the first Carnegie structure. The interior finishes of marble, tile, and polished wood were equally as elegant as the exterior.

The ruins of the Recreation/Guesthouse still convey its Queen Anne characteristics. Also elegantly designed and furnished, this was the other major building of the Carnegies' Dungeness. The building, as well

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 11

as housing recreational paraphernalia, also contained guestrooms and quarters for one of the bachelor Carnegie sons.

Many of the support structures built to house Carnegie employees, such as the Grange, the carriagehouse, and the Captain's house are also substantial buildings, and with the other outbuildings illustrate the Carnegies' standard and style of living.

The Tabby House is the only standing tabby building remaining on the island. It represents the building materials and types of structures of the earlier plantation era on Cumberland Island.

Landscape Architecture:

Of all the Carnegie properties on Cumberland Island Dungeness was unquestionably the showplace, both in terms of the main house with its complex of support buildings, and the grandly landscaped grounds. The tabby pergola and house illustrate the earlier Greene-Miller era at Dungeness. Phineas and Catherine Miller also had an elaborate system of formal gardens which the Carnegies restored and expanded. The formal entrance to the mansion still stands, along with the ruins of fountains, benches, terraces, retaining walls, and exotic vegetation, giving a visible impression of the elaborately planned landscaping that surrounded the mansion. The extent of the landscaping far surpassed that of the other mansion complexes on the island and was often remarked upon by visitors to Dungeness.

Community Planning:

After Thomas Carnegie died in 1886, his wife, Lucy Coleman Carnegie, developed Dungeness and other parts of her large estate on Cumberland Island into a self-sufficient area that may be compared to a baronial fiefdom of the Middle Ages. No convenience, no pleasure, no comfort, and no beauty, were lacking at Dungeness. From 200 to 300 employees worked on the island estates. With the assistance of the estate manager, Mrs. Carnegie raised a variety of crops, livestock, poultry, and exotic plants. As each of her children attained maturity, she had large homes built on the island for their convenience. Each of these homes was largely controlled by her from Dungeness. Dungeness district under the Carnegies is a constant reminder of a period in American history dominated by the powerful scions of industry and finance.

Leisure/Resorts:

The beauty and grandeur of the Dungeness estate, along with its complex of service buildings, attest to the wealth and social status of the Thomas Carnegie family. The splendor of Dungeness vied with that of other coastal resort islands inhabited by the very rich, and the numerous Carnegie social activities on Cumberland Island always occasioned comment in the local

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A

Page 12

papers. Lucy Carnegie carried on the gracious hostess tradition of Catherine Greene Miller, masterminding the continuing development of the Carnegie cultural resources of Cumberland Island from her Dungeness mansion.

Verbal Boundary Description

[Redacted]

U.T.M. Coordinates of Dungeness Historic District

Easting

Northing

[Redacted]

U.T.M. Coordinates of NPS 9 CAM 5

[Redacted]

U.T.M. Coordinates of NPS 9 CAM 6

[Redacted]