

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION  
PART 1 – EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

JAN 22 2008

NPS Office Use Only

NRIS No:

FEB 23 2008

NPS Office Use Only

Project No:

SC Department of  
Archives & History

2457

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certifications will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Type or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

Aaff-2008-010

1. Name of Property: LaRoche House

Address of Property: Street 2434 Sea Island Yacht Club Road

City Wadmalaw Island County Charleston State SC Zip 29487

Name of historic district: Rockville Historic District

National Register district  certified state or local district  potential district

2. Check nature of request:

certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district (or National Register property) for the purpose of rehabilitation.  
 certification that the structure or building, and where appropriate, the land area on which such structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes  
 certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named historic district.  
 preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.  
 preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.  
 preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Project contact:

Name Sarah Fick email: sfick29403@aft.net  
Street Post Office Box 525 City Charleston  
State SC Zip 29402 Daytime Telephone Number 843-723-4675

4. Owner:

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the property described above. I understand that falsification of factual representations in this application is subject to criminal sanctions of up to \$10,000 in fines or imprisonment for up to five years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Name Anne F. Smith Signature Anne F. Smith Date 1/15/08  
Organization   
Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number X249-78-6212  
Street 12 Greenhill Street City Charleston  
State SC Zip 29401 Daytime Telephone Number 843-723-3113

NPS Office Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Certification Application – Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

contributes to the significance of the above-named district (or National Register property) and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.  
 contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.  
 does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary determinations:

appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
 does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.  
 appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.  
 appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.  
 does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

3/13/08

Dionicio Seguilar

Date

National Park Service Authorized Signature

HPS/TPS

National Park Service Office/Telephone No.

202-354-2032

See Attachments

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION –**

**PART 1**

LaRoche House

Property Name

2434 Sea Island Yacht Club Road, Wadmalaw Island  
SC

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address

**5. Description of physical appearance:**

The LaRoche House is a two-story frame residence clad in novelty siding with a lateral gabled roof and a one-story hipped porch across the façade. The five-bay wide façade has a single entry with transom and sidelights. Roofing is standing seam metal. The low brick pier foundation and chimney at the west gable end are early 1930s replacements.

The façade of the LaRoche House is seen in a ca. 1922 photo (Thompson, "Rockville," p. 44) with a hipped porch across the center three bays, and a door opening with transom at the second floor center opening. By 1931 (p. 119) the second floor door had been reworked as a window, and soon afterward there was a more extensive modernization. A 1971 photo (p. 45) reveals the changes: brick foundation piers lower than the original tabby piers, the porch roof replaced (columns appear to have been unchanged), chimney relocated to the west gable end, and novelty siding installed. In 1990, the porch was extended across the full façade, with new wood posts, slat balusters, insect screening, and an open front deck installed; and the window sash were replaced.

At the north rear side of the house is a long wing, one and one-half stories, with one-story extensions at sides and rear. In 2004 this wing replaced unsound non-historic additions that had resulted from several remodeling projects. The modern wing, with siding and roofing to match the main house, is sympathetic to the historic building and the surrounding historic district. It is recessed from the side elevations and clearly distinguished from the rear of the historic building. Despite the exterior alterations over time, the residence retains its essential historic design and is a contributing property to the district. A modern two-story garage/apartment is set northwest of the house.

The interior plan is typical of antebellum Sea Island residences, with a center hall serving as stair hall and through-corridor, flanked by the principal parlors. A short upper landing connects the two upstairs rooms. Its north side was partitioned as a bathroom in the early twentieth century. Originally fireplace(s) were set at the north wall, but these were removed ca. 1930 when the chimney was relocated. The interior retains much of its historic fabric: heart-pine flooring; late-19th or early 20th century newels, pickets, and rails at the stair; wood door and window surrounds with inset panels beneath the first level windows; and paneled interior doors.

Date of Construction: ca. 1835      Source of Date: Tradition; architectural style

Date(s) of Alteration(s): 1930s, 1990, 2004

Has building been moved?  yes     no    If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Statement of significance:**

The LaRoche House is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century summer residence. In setting, size, scale, mass and material, the building contributes to the surrounding Rockville Historic District. The non-historic garage is not a contributing property to the district.

**Historical background**

Richard Jenkins LaRoche (1788-1846) of Wampee Plantation and his wife Martha Seabrook Jenkins (1792-1859) had nine children. The youngest son was Joseph Edings LaRoche (1835-1898). In 1856, when he reached the age of 21, he received his portion of his father's estate: Wampee Plantation (subject to Martha LaRoche's life tenancy) and a half-interest in Caty's Hill Plantation. Although no deed was found, Joseph E. LaRoche also inherited his parent's ca. 1835 house in Rockville, which Richard J. LaRoche had bequeathed to his widow for life.

Joseph Edings LaRoche and his wife Ella Elizabeth Murray kept their summer residence at Rockville into the 20th century. In 1913 Mrs. LaRoche sold it for \$1250 to the Sea Island Yacht Club, whose clubhouse was next door. The club gave her a mortgage, then struggled to make payments. In early 1919 Susan G. Seabrook, wife of Edmund Bellinger Seabrook, paid the LaRoche heirs \$850, and received title to the property.

The LaRoche House is still used as a summer residence.

**7. Photographs and maps.**

Attach photographs and maps to application

Continuation sheets attached:  yes     no

## 2434 Sea Island Yacht Club Road Part One Certification Application

### Description

The LaRoche House is a two-story frame residence clad in novelty siding with a lateral gabled roof and a one-story hipped porch across the façade. The five-bay wide façade has a single entry with transom and sidelights. Roofing is standing seam metal. The low brick pier foundation and chimney at the west gable end are early 1930s replacements.

The façade of the LaRoche House is seen in a ca. 1922 photo (Thompson, "Rockville," p. 44) with a hipped porch across the center three bays, and a door opening with transom at the second floor center opening. By 1931 (p. 119) the second floor door had been reworked as a window, and soon afterward there was a more extensive modernization. A 1971 photo (p. 45) reveals the changes: brick foundation piers lower than the original tabby piers, the porch roof replaced (columns appear to have been unchanged), chimney relocated to the west gable end, and novelty siding installed. In 1990, the porch was extended across the full façade, with new wood posts, slat balusters, insect screening, and an open front deck installed; and the window sash were replaced.

At the north rear side of the house is a long wing, one and one-half stories, with one-story extensions at sides and rear. In 2004 this wing replaced unsound non-historic additions that had resulted from several remodeling projects. The modern wing, with siding and roofing to match the main house, is sympathetic to the historic building and the surrounding historic district. It is recessed from the side elevations and clearly distinguished from the rear of the historic building. Despite the exterior alterations over time, the residence retains its essential historic design and is a contributing property to the district. A modern two-story garage/apartment is set northwest of the house.

The interior plan is typical of antebellum Sea Island residences, with a center hall serving as stair hall and through-corridor, flanked by the principal parlors. A short upper landing connects the two upstairs rooms. Its north side was partitioned as a bathroom in the early twentieth century. Originally fireplace(s) were set at the north wall, but these were removed ca. 1930 when the chimney was relocated.

The interior retains much of its historic fabric: heart-pine flooring; late-19th or early 20th century newels, pickets, and rails at the stair; wood door and window surrounds with inset panels beneath the first level windows; and paneled interior doors.

### Statement of significance

The LaRoche House is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century summer residence. In setting, size, scale, mass and material, the building contributes to the surrounding Rockville Historic District. The non-historic garage is not a contributing property to the district.

### Historical background

Richard Jenkins LaRoche (1788-1846) of Wampee Plantation and his wife Martha Seabrook Jenkins (1792-1859) had nine children. The youngest son was Joseph Edings LaRoche (1835-1898). In 1856, when he reached the age of 21, he received his portion of his father's estate: Wampee Plantation (subject to Martha LaRoche's life tenancy) and a half-interest in Caty's Hill Plantation. Although no deed was found, Joseph E. LaRoche also inherited his parent's ca. 1835 house in Rockville, which Richard J. LaRoche had bequeathed to his widow for life.

Joseph Edings LaRoche and his wife Ella Elizabeth Murray kept their summer residence at Rockville into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1913 Mrs. LaRoche sold it for \$1250 to the Sea Island Yacht Club, whose clubhouse was next door. The club gave her a mortgage, then struggled to make payments. In early 1919 Susan G. Seabrook, wife of Edmund Bellinger Seabrook, paid the LaRoche heirs \$850, and received title to the property.

The LaRoche House is still used as a summer residence.

2434 Sea Island Yacht Club Road 150-0-0-099 Anne F. & Whit Smith  
Deed Ref T545, 142

*Images of America: Rockville* (Alicia Anderson Thompson, Arcadia Publishing, 2006), p. 44-45: House was reworked in 1930s, brick piers replacing original tabby. Built ca. 1835 for Joseph Edings LaRoche (1835-1898) and wife Ella E. Murray (1836-1917) Later owner Edmund Bellinger Seabrook (1871-1948) and wife Susan Girardeau Jenkins. 1922 photo shows hipped porch one-story, width as today, but with single door opening at center bay above. Elias Bull's 1970s photo shows the house on lowered foundation, with porch roof reworked, window has replaced upper door; chimney is relocated to west side. P. 119: house shown in August 1931: porch as in 1922, upper opening has been changed to window; chimney not at west gable. Thompson p. 9: first row of one-acre lots along the creek established 1824 by Benjamin Adams. Second row developed around 1828. By 1835 William Seabrook had built his landing.

Richard Jenkins LaRoche (1788-1846) and Martha Seabrook Jenkins (1792-1859); nine children: eldest John Julius LaRoche b. 1816; youngest Joseph Edings LaRoche (1835-1898) and Martha Evelina (1836-1909. Joseph Edings married Ella Elizabeth Murray 2/1857; Martha married JC Seabrook 1855). (Rivers, "Jenkins" in *Seven Lowcountry Families*)

Will of Richard J. LaRoche, written 12/27/1843 proved 3/6/1846. To my wife Martha, my plantation and my house at Rockville for life. Divide real estate among sons. (Book 44, p. 25) Inventory made May 1846. Slaves totaling \$51,321; boats, horses, cattle sheep, household furnishings, hogs... totaling \$2607.50. Does not reference or distinguish among his real estate. (Inv Book B, p. 208)

6/21/1856 Richard J. & James LaRoche, executors RJ LaRoche, to Joseph Edings LaRoche. Ref to will of Richard J. LaRoche: to my wife Martha, the tract where I reside, afterward to my children. Rest & residue divide among children John J. LaRoche (who has recently died), Elizabeth F. Jenkins, Richard J. LaRoche, James LaRoche, Amarinthia S. Jenkins, Daniel J. LaRoche, Edward W. LaRoche, Joseph E. LaRoche, and Martha E. LaRoche (who has married James C. Seabrook). Divide my real estate among my sons.. clauses re specific lands. Each child to receive his share at 21 or marriage.

Estate now consists of the plantation left for life to Martha LaRoche, known as the Wampee Plantation, also Caty's Hill plantations, purchased by the executors with the sale of personal estate and certain slaves.

To Joseph E. LaRoche, Wampee Plantation, 400 acres, subject to Martha's life estate, also undivided moiety of Caty's Hill, 700 acres B&B north on Bears Bluff Road, south Dr. Whitridge [Rose Bank]; also slaves. (RMC V13, p. 602)

2/8/1913 Heirs of JE LaRoche (JM LaRoche, Martha E. Seabrook, Lydia E. Bentz, Amarintha E. Anderson, Lena W. Sosnowski, Mary F. Hart, Richard T. LaRoche, Esther E. Thomas & Ella LaRoche) to Sea Island Yacht Club, \$1250 Lot with buildings, ½ acre, B&B east Mrs. Julius Sosnowski, west SI Yacht Club, north J. H. Bentz. (RMC W26,p. 402)

3/5/1919 SIYC to Susan G. Seabrook. SIYC had mortgaged property to secure \$1100 bond; can't pay mortgage. Susan G. Seabrook to pay \$850 to grantors [LaRoche heirs], they won't foreclose; SIYC will convey to Seabrook. (RMC W28, p. 353)

1990 renovation (new porch, replacement windows) designed by Jack Mitchell (Mitchell, Small, Donahue); 2004 rear addition Glenn Keyes Architects

Notary Public for South Carolina

Recorded August 21-1913 - Original delivered to August Nelson  
Julius E. Rogennell P.M.L. per ms

2434 SEA ISLAND YACHT CLUB ROAD

W26, p42

J. M. da Roche et al  
Sea Island Yacht Club  
Conveyance

The State of South Carolina.

Know all men by these presents, That we,  
J. M. da Roche, Martha E. Seabrook, Lydia  
C. Bentz, Amigrantha E. Anderson, Anna  
L. Dobrowski, Mary F. Hart, Richard  
J. da Roche, Esther E. Thomas and Ella

H. da Roche being all of the heirs at law of J. E. da Roche,  
deceased, for and in consideration of the sum of twelve  
hundred and fifty Dollars, to us in hand paid at and  
before the sealing of these presents by Sea Island Yacht Club,  
a corporation created by and under the laws of the State  
of South Carolina, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,  
have granted, bargained sold and released, and by  
these presents do grant, bargain, sell and release unto  
the said Sea Island Yacht Club:

All that lot piece or parcel of land with the buildings  
thereon situate, lying and being in the village of Rockville,  
Wadmalaw Island, State of South Carolina. Measuring  
and containing one half of an acre, more or less; Bounding  
and Bounding on the East by lands of Mrs. Julius  
Dobrowski, South by Bolnicket River West by lands of  
Sea Island Yacht Club and North by lands of H. Bentz.

Together with all and singular the Rights, Members  
Recrements and Appurtenances to the said Premises  
belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining.

To have and to hold all and singular, the said Premises  
before mentioned unto the said Sea Island Yacht Club, its  
successors and assigns forever.

And we do hereby bind ourselves and our Heirs, Executors  
and Administrators, to warrant and forever defend, all and  
singular, the said Premises unto the said Sea Island Yacht  
Club, its successors and assigns against us and our Heirs  
and all persons whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to  
claim the same or any part thereof.

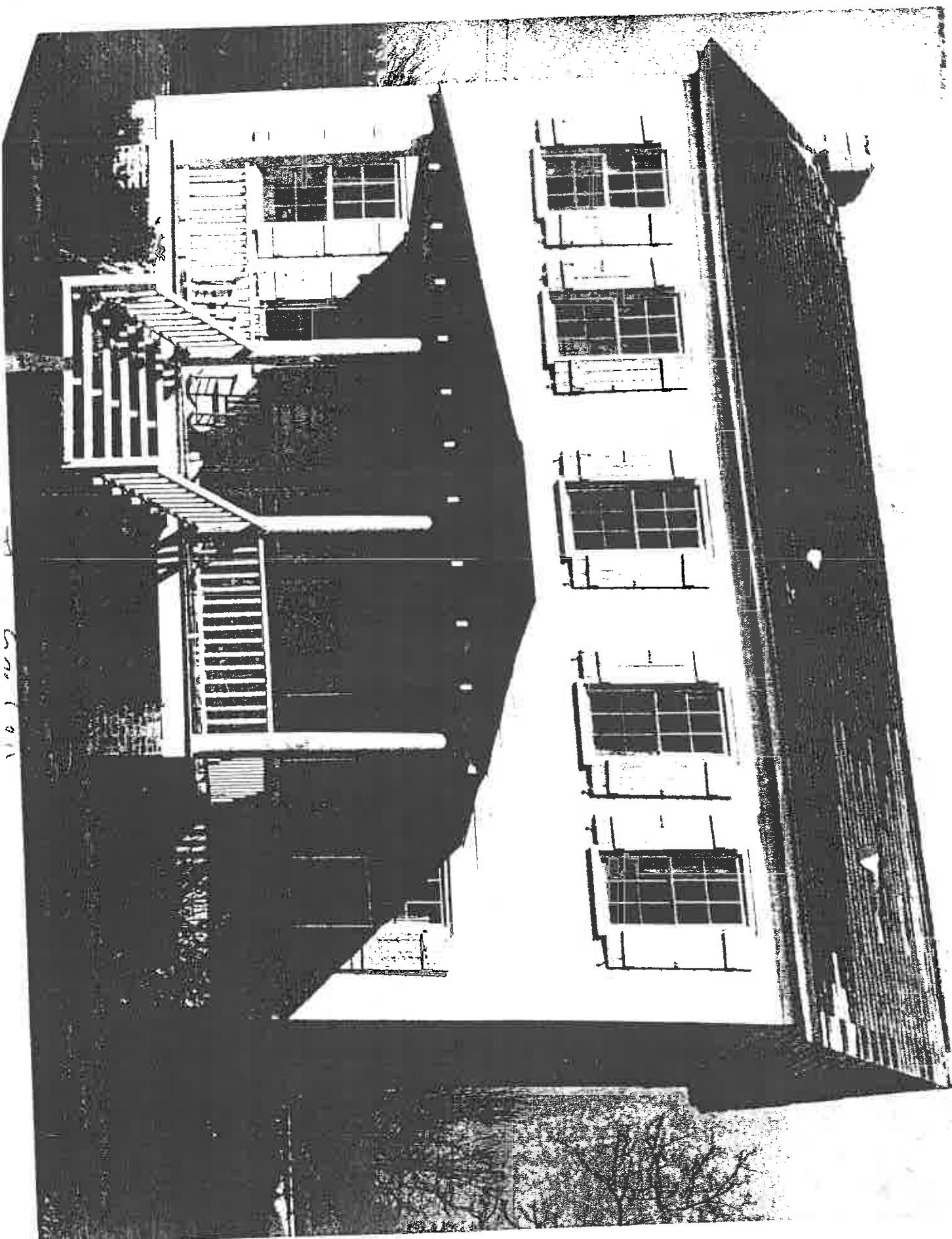
Witness our hands and seals this eighth day of  
February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine

1913

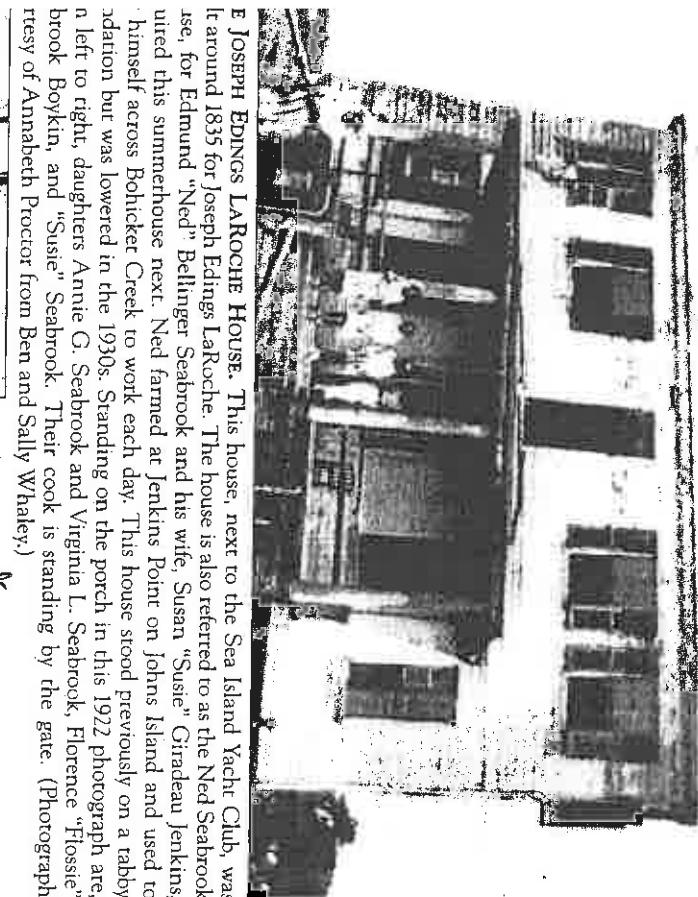
1971

150' on map

Three W.W. 1971  
Joseph Catofche



2434 Seaboard Yacht Club Road  
1971 CCRH Spec. Collection



**E JOSEPH EDINGS LA ROCHE HOUSE.** This house, next to the Sea Island Yacht Club, was built around 1835 for Joseph Edings La Roche. The house is also referred to as the Ned Seabrook house, for Edmund "Ned" Bellinger Seabrook and his wife, Susan "Susie" Giradieu Jenkins, resided this summerhouse next. Ned farmed at Jenkins Point on Johns Island and used to himself across Bohicket Creek to work each day. This house stood previously on a tabby foundation but was lowered in the 1930s. Standing on the porch in this 1922 photograph are, from left to right, daughters Annie G. Seabrook and Virginia L. Seabrook, Florence "Flossie" Seabrook Boykin, and "Susie" Seabrook. Their cook is standing by the gate. (Photograph courtesy of Annabeth Proctor from Ben and Sally Whaley.)

Seabrook  
1821-1922  
son of Richard & La Roche 1836

**Joseph Edings La Roche**  
**Ella Elizabeth Murray**

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH EDINGS LA ROCHE. This photograph shows Joseph "Joe" Edings and his wife, Ella Murray La Roche, in their living room. Joe was born on April 27, 1835, and died on May 13, 1898. Ella was born on August 8, 1836, and died on August 17, 1917. (Photograph courtesy of Jean Townsend.)

**DANIEL JENKINS LA ROCHE.** Daniel owned the last piece of land on the western edge of the village and built a house on it around 1842. On September 19, 1872, Daniel wrote to Julian Mitchell regarding the title to the Rockville house and lot and the payment of \$50 for the use of La Roche's new steamer to float the house around to New Cut Plantation, located on the other side of Wadmalaw. He needed it done as soon as possible because he had to get his cotton picked. The third hall was then built on this property, and the surrounding marsh was filled in for parking. (Photograph courtesy of William Jenkins Seabrook.)

