A Study of the Vernacular Beach Cottage Typologies of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina and Documentary Drawings of the Nathaniel Barnwell House for the Historic American Building Survey

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A STUDY OF THE VERNACULAR BEACH COTTAGE TYPOLOGIES OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA AND DOCUMENTARY DRAWINGS OF THE NATHANIEL BARNWELL HOUSE FOR THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

A Thesis Project
Presented to
the Graduate Schools of
Clemson University and the College of Charleston

In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Historic Preservation

by
Amelia Morgan Millar
May 2010

Accepted by:
Professor Ashley Robbins-Wilson, Committee Chair
Professor Frances Ford
Professor Richard Marks
Professor Jim Ward
ABSTRACT

Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina is a coastal barrier island located to the northeast of Charleston Harbor. Utilized as a health retreat and vacation destination from the early 1810s to the 1930s by the wealthy of Charleston, the island now exists as a full-time residential community. The island’s residential structures consisted mainly of simple one to two story wood structures, many with substantial and distinctive porch designs. While there have been surveys completed of the location and histories of structures on the island, until now, there has not been a study of the particular architectural typologies or their prevalence on the island. Only % of the houses on the island today are historic, with % of those structures being altered significantly enough to have lost their historic integrity. Because of this, the first major part of this project is an analysis of the Sanborn fire insurance maps that exist for the island from 1893 to 1938. This section gives information on the prevalence of different forms during the historic period, as opposed to what only remains today. Using these maps, historic photos, and a photographic study from 1987, basic profiles and sketches of the major typologies were prepared and their historic prevalence discussed.

The location of these residences on Sullivan’s Island includes inherent risk of loss because of threats from weather and new construction development. For this reason, the second major part of the project includes documentary drawings of an excellent example of a Sullivan’s Island beach cottage typology. Drawings of this cottage located at 1023 Middle Street will then be submitted to the Historic American Building Survey to be available to the general public for reference and further research. These drawings are intended to be a permanent record of an important architectural style in the history of Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina.
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my grandmother, Mrs. Audrey Babin Daigle, who will forever be my guiding light to push forward and live my life to the fullest through love, learning, and determination.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the following people for their assistance and graciousness in assisting me in the completion of my thesis project: Professor Ashley Robbins-Wilson, my advisor; Professors Frances Ford, Richard Marks, and James Ward, my readers; Nicholas Jones and Emily Martin; the graduate program’s first year students; my classmates, the second year students; and everyone else who has supported me through this project both academically and emotionally.
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INTRODUCTION

Sullivan’s Island is a 4.3 mile long “L”-shaped coastal barrier island located just outside Charleston, South Carolina with the short length extending into the mouth of the Charleston Harbor and the longer portion running lengthwise along the eastern border of Mt. Pleasant. The history of the island is steeped in both military and social history, with the island having played a part in many of the major military events in America’s history. The island has also long been a summer retreat for the wealthy of the Lowcountry, being frequented for both health and vacation reasons. This patronage resulted in the development of the Sullivan’s Island residential community through a simple and relaxing style of cottage vernacular architecture.

Sullivan’s Island has managed to escape the majority of tourism-oriented blight that has come to many popular vacation destinations in recent times. During the period after World War II, as the beaches became more accessible through easier transportation methods and more expendable income, some of the residents of the island were wary of the potential effects of hotel and vacation rental development on their homes and tight-knit community. Concerned citizens of the island instituted efforts to limit short-term rentals and initiated a review board for architectural construction on the island. These efforts have led to the formation of a year-round residential community that is known as one of the quieter, more private beaches in the Lowcountry area.

The island was not always a quiet year round beach town, however. Right in the middle of its popularity as a summer vacation destination, the year round population on the island was
steady at only five hundred residents, while the summer population hovered around three thousand. That is one-and-a-half times the island's current year-round population of two thousand residents. It was this influx of population and money that brought to the island its iconic architecture and reputation as a health and vacation destination. While its popularity peaked between the 1830s and 1930s, the use of the island as a summer destination began in the 1810s and to a certain extent continues until today.

And even though Sullivan's has sidestepped an influx of condos and hotels that have been constructed in neighboring areas like Isle of Palms, the island's historic architectural resources have not, however, completely avoided the threats that are evident in many historic coastal communities including damaging inclement weather and new residential construction. Not straying too far from its history as a vacation destination, in 2007 Sullivan's Island was listed as the 70th most expensive zip code in which to reside with a 2006 median home price of $1,195,000. In comparison, Charleston was ranked as No. 327 and the median house price being $765,000.¹ This incoming wealth can be dangerous for historic homes, and ironically that incoming wealth is now one of the bigger threats against the historic cottages that the town is fighting to preserve.

This project is an effort to learn more about the actual typologies that are present on the island and what the composition of the island's architecture would have looked like during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Because of the constant threat of the loss of these structures, there is also a valid argument for permanent documentation of these historic resources. For this

reason, this research is presented with a set of measured drawings of an excellent example of early 20th century island cottage architecture for record in the Library of Congress.
METHODOLOGY

Initial research on Sullivan’s island yielded the three National Register Historic Districts established in 2007 and information on the architectural review process for renovations to historic structures and new construction, and recent surveys of the island’s historic resources. Two of the recent surveys (1987 & 2003/2007) photographed and recorded basic histories of the island’s historic resources. What was not found, however, was a definition of the Sullivan’s Island vernacular beach cottage or documentation of these historic structures. The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office has records from the National Register Nomination in 2007 that includes photographs, but there are no drawings of any building on the island. While the history of housing on the island has been summarized, there are no clear definitions of the architectural characteristics that define an island residence or materials used.

The following questions needed to be answered:

- What features define these structures and their vernacular design?
- How many typological variations existed?
- What historic architectural forms have survived and what has been lost?

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Photographic survey from 1987 can be found in Appendix A.
- How well do the historic structures that remain today reflect the original typological composition of the island?

This Masters project is composed of two components: (1) Mapping, analysis, and the definition of the vernacular typologies, and (2) recordation of a pristine example of the Sullivan’s Island vernacular beach cottage through measured drawings completed to the standards set out by the Historic American Building Survey.

Part one of this process was the analysis of the four Sanborn maps available for the years 1893, 1912, 1924, and 1938. These maps once aligned and overlaid proved to be the greatest discovery tool. The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are a series of insurance liability maps that include basic information such as shape, size, location, roofing material, house/porch footprint, and the number of stories.4 This data was used by the insuring fire company to respond quickly and effectively to those residents who had purchased their protection services. The earliest set of Sanborn maps that were created for Sullivan’s Island concentrated on the original residential settlement known as Moultrieville and date from 1893. Three additional maps were created for the years of 1912, 1924, and 1938. The original boundaries of the Moultrieville settlement in the 1893 maps extended from the western end of the island to the western side of Fort Moultrie and then continued past the fort by two blocks to Moultrie Street. The later maps of 1912, 1924, and 1938 gradually encompass additional area north of the original boundaries as the population and the military presence on the island increased.

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4 The Sanborn Map Company, "Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970," ProQuest, 1893, 1912, 1924, 1938, http://sanborn.umi.com (accessed 2009); Originals of these Sanborn maps can be found in Appendix B.
The type of information that is available in the Sanborn maps does have its limits and because of that, a definition of the term typology, which is use quite frequently further on in the report, is needed. The information presented in the Sanborn maps as well as in historic photographs reveals a large amount of information about the exterior features of the structure. For that reason, in this instance, the typologies that are defined only refer to the exterior of the structure. However, where information is known about the interiors of the structures, it will be presented. Access to the interiors of a broad enough scope of structures to develop a plan typology for each style of structure was not available as almost all of these structures are private homes.

Because of the changing boundaries that occur over the forty-five year period of the Sanborns, a study area was created to provide consistency in the analysis. This study area encompasses the boundaries that are set out in the earliest 1893 Sanborn map and are included in all of the following maps. The data not in the study area was not disregarded, however, but was considered in comparison with other historic maps, plats, written documents, and other primary resources.

The newly compiled maps and data table were created with the computer-aided drawing programs, AutoCAD 2009, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Illustrator, a visual presentation software. The coordinating spreadsheet organizes the data into quantitative results creating totals and percentages and historic research.
The previously completed surveys of the island’s resources supplemented the research uncovered in the maps. A site plan and photographic survey of the island’s historic structures was completed in 1987. This survey is the largest visual record of the island’s historic residences. Hurricane Hugo inundated the island in 1989, shortly after this survey was completed. Over sixty structures on the island were destroyed by the hurricane, making the 1987 photographic survey all the more valuable. The need to document the remaining structures became even more pertinent and the preparation of nominations to the National Register was initialized. In order to collect the data for these nominations, a survey was completed in 2003 that included approximate construction dates, photographs, and brief histories of each historic structure. This survey and an update in 2007 were completed by Preservation Consultants under the guidance of Mr. David Schneider, who is now executive director for the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. In the 2003 survey and the 2007 update, Preservation Consultants also determined the integrity of the remaining historic structures on the island. These three surveys were all used in conjunction with actual observation to analyze architectural features that were not readily recorded in the Sanborn maps including roof profile, dormers, windows, doors, and porch balustrades.

Part Two of this project includes the preparation of measured drawings of the beach cottage located at 1023 Middle Street, also known as the Nathaniel Barnwell House. The

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house is a one-and-a-half story structure typical of the “U”-shaped Wrap Porch Typology. Both the exterior and interior of the house are of a high historic integrity with minimal modern alterations. To find an exterior and interior this pristine and accessible is rare which is why the measured drawings were created for this structure. As a Teacher’s Assistant for the historic preservation graduate course, *Investigation, Documentation, and Conservation*, I worked with the Class of 2011 to create the interior floor plan and a small selection of interior elevations. All other drawings were completed by the author independently. The drawings are completed to the standards laid out by the Historic American Building Survey and will be available to the general public through the Library of Congress.
GEOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL MAKE-UP OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND

Barrier islands change shape and a geological explanation of their formation and characteristics can assist in explaining Sullivan’s Island’s vernacular development. The formation of the South Carolina barrier islands extends back fifteen thousand years to a point in time when the ocean’s water levels were one hundred and fifty feet lower. The formation of these islands occurred when an increase in climate temperature caused the melting of ice formations and a rise in sea level. The inundation of water filled existing coastal landforms creating bays. The fingers of land that then extended into the ocean were transformed through wave action into long thin “spits” that paralleled the advancing waters and waves. Then, with the continually rising water, breaches across the spits of land occurred, forming barrier islands.8

These barrier islands are not and never will be static features. The most visible example in the Lowcountry of this constant shifting of coastal land masses exists in the Morris Island lighthouse. The lighthouse was completed in 1876 originally 1,300 feet inland from the shore of Morris Island.9 Now, in 2010, the lighthouse is surrounded by water and is located two

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thousand feet from the shoreline (see fig. 3.3). The movement of the Charleston barrier islands was exacerbated by the introduction of jetties to Charleston Harbor in 1896. The jetties created a pocket into which the sand could level out, causing further recession of the shoreline on Morris Island.10

Because of the northern jetty’s relationship to the southern end of Sullivan’s Island, the jetty caused the opposite effect for Sullivan’s Island than it did for Morris Island. Sullivan’s Island is accreting land along its southern and eastern coastlines. While the accretion of sand does lengthen the depth of the beach, the dune formations created are more irregular, creating weak points for water

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to infiltrate during storms or tidal surges. The northeastern end of Sullivan’s Island at the aggressive Breach Inlet, however, is eroding at a rate of 2.6 feet per year.\footnote{Ibid., 102-104.} Rock sea walls line portions of the beach along the northeastern end of the island asland owners are trying to prevent erosion. The loss of sand in some areas is so great that high tides threaten existing homes’ foundations. It is fortunate, for the sake of the historic resources then, that the most historic residences and the island first residential neighborhood are located on the southwestern end of the island, where the land is accreting.

Dangerous weather patterns are another threat to living on a coastal barrier island. Hurricane season brings the possibility of damaging winds, storm surges, flooding rains and tornados. With such a low elevation and minimal barriers against incoming inclement weather, hurricanes can do a significant amount of damage. Most recently, many Charlestonians and Sullivan’s Islanders recall the destruction that occurred with Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Major hurricanes also hit the Lowcountry of South Carolina in 1813, 1893, 1911, 1940.\footnote{Poston, Jonathan. \textit{The Buildings of Charleston}. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997.} In another instance of damaging weather, five tornados swept through the greater Charleston area on September 29, 1938 causing damage on the downtown peninsula, James Island, and Sullivan’s Island. A map of the
tornadoes’ paths shows damage on Sullivan’s Island to be mainly on the northeastern end of the island (see fig. 3.5). Essentially, the threat of destruction will always exist for Sullivan’s Island and the recordation of these typologies and measured drawings creates a permanent record.
A CONCISE HISTORY OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND, SC

From the wealthy to the enslaved, summertime to wartime, and a prime location on hurricane alley, Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina has harbored almost every extreme known to the Lowcountry. These elements have shaped the island’s development and the people who settled and frequented it. These historical trends will be analyzed to better understand the island’s architectural typology.

The close relationship with the water dictates the majority of the activity and development that occurred on the island from the seventeenth century and continues to today. Sullivan’s Island is located at the mouth of the Charleston Harbor and because of its location was seen in the 1670s as a strategic location against invasion from the sea. In 1674, Captain Florence O’Sullivan, a deputy to one of the Lord’s Proprietors, was put in charge of a “Great Gun” on the island that would be used for that purpose. After his passing in 1683, the colony’s Council passed an action that would post three men on the island year-round to man the gun as well as fires that were used by ship captains as navigation aids. At that time, the island was undeveloped and covered with trees and underbrush. In an effort to make the island more visible to incoming merchant ships, the vegetation, except for the largest of trees, was cleared by government mandate in 1700. Residential shelters first occurred in 1714 with the installation of police on the island and the design of a street plan.

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In these years, however, the island was not seen as a desirable or habitable location because of another one of its uses: slave trade. The removed yet proximate location of the island to the port of Charleston was ideal and the first pest house, or lazaretto, was constructed for the quarantine of incoming shipments of slaves in 1707. It was a brick structure on the southwestern end of the island near the harbor’s mouth. The pest house is believed to have been reconstructed four times because of poor construction or destruction by hurricane. While use of the pest house on Sullivan’s Island stopped in 1796, the structure remained on the island and was used for storage until at least 1817, well into the period in which Charleston’s elite began to summer on the island.16

The feature that most contributed to the residential development on the island was the improvement of transportation between Sullivan’s Island and the Charleston Peninsula. The incoming point for ships and local boat transportation was at the wharf on the southwestern end of the island. This area, called the Cove, was sheltered from the extremely strong currents in the harbor.

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making it easier to access. As the first point of debarkation for the island, development of the streets and buildings originated from this point. By a 1791 act on the part of the state legislature, property ownership was orchestrated differently than regular “fee simple” ownership. The physical land was owned by the government and a “license to build” could then be applied for and a lease signed if it was beneficial for one’s health to reside on the island. 

Because of the lack of land ownership, many of the original houses were humble in size and style, a precursor for the later generations of the Sullivan’s Island beach cottage. The first settled neighborhood was termed Moultrieville after General Moultrie and his military presence on the island during the Revolutionary War. Moultrieville was incorporated as a town in 1817. In some cases, a “keeper house” was also constructed in order to secure the license for a piece of property before the larger, intended residence could be constructed. It was evident by the wording of the Act that the benefits of moving to Sullivan’s Island were mainly intended to be health related. The act explained the island property as, “beneficial to their health to reside on Sullivan’s Island [to] have liberty to build on said island a dwelling...and the said person...shalt have exclusive right to the same...delivering up the same when demanded by the Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being.” Therefore, the original dwellings were intended to be functional, yet not an investment as a home on the peninsula or plantation.

would have been. This would not always be the case, however, as the island became more popular as a vacation destination.

Beginning in the 1810s, advertisements appeared in the City Gazette newspaper promoting cottages on Sullivan’s Island either for sale or for rent. Some advertisements list the basic attributes of the houses, while others like the one in Figure 4.2 give express detail as to the size and amenities of the residence.20 Advertisements for building materials also illustrate that construction is active on the island. Advertisements for bricks, lumber, and laborers all appeared in 1808 and 1809. The City Gazette had many listings for Sullivan’s Island boarding houses or hotels as well. These started out as small facilities in the 1810s and 1820s offering, “dinners will be prepared at the shortest notice,” and a supply of, “the best Madeira, Claret and other Wines.”21 A few smaller hotels such as The Point House emerged as well and were successful in bringing summer visitors to the island. The most illustrious of all of the hotels, however, was The Moultrie House. Catering to a very wealthy clientele, it was the epitome of luxury. Social events at the Moultrie House and other hotels filled the summer season and by the 1810s, the island no longer was simply a place for repose due to health reasons. Many writers had journal entries that documented the Moultrie Hotel and range from “Flirtation at

Figure 4.2. House on Sullivan’s Island, for sale. (1804) (Simons 1804)

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the Moultrie House” by William Gilmore Simms about his social life on the island to the
journal entry of the soldier who boasts of bombing the hotel during the Civil War.22

The hotel was bombed during the Civil War and never reconstructed. Many buildings on
the island were destroyed during the Civil War and the reconstruction period was difficult. The
appeal of the beach life to those on the peninsula, however, persevered and the construction of
hotels such as the Atlantic Beach Hotel continued the tradition of summering in the cool
summer breezes that could not be attained downtown.23

The availability of transportation for getting to and from Sullivan’s Island as well as the
local transportation once having arrived determined much about the development of buildings.
The Hibben ferries connecting Mount Pleasant and Sullivan’s Island transported residents and
visitors to and from the island between 1798 and 1821. Another ferry connected Adger’s

Wharf in downtown Charleston to the Island. The most important development to the expansion of residences and new neighborhoods on the island, however was the installation of the mechanized trolley service which was run by the newly constructed power station beginning in 1898. Prior to 1898, transportation had been provided on the island through the use of mule-towed trolleys.\textsuperscript{24}

This opens the island for the further development of the neighborhoods that are outside of the original Moultrieville settlement. The other main neighborhood, Atlanticville, is located further north on the island, close to where the current bridge from Mt. Pleasant (Station 26) is located. After the new trolley is installed, the Atlanticville neighborhood expanded and houses quickly filled the available empty plots of land.\textsuperscript{25} The trolley is virtually pronounced defunct, however, with the implementation of an automobile bridge to the island in 1926. The namesakes for the trolley stops still remain as street names, i.e. Station 26, Station 10, etc.\textsuperscript{26}

Throughout the island’s history, another vein of activity is actively running in the stationing of military forces on the island for the city’s, and then the country’s, defense. The positioning of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island was a strategic move on the part of the government, but it turned out to be an economic one for the town of Moultrieville and then all of Sullivan’s Island. The fort’s presence brought soldiers and monetary flow into the island outside of the summertime vacation crowd, which was appreciated by the year-round

\textsuperscript{25} Ibid. 9-10.
\textsuperscript{26} David Schneider, \textit{Historic Resources of Sullivan’s Island}, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Columbia, SC: Department of the Interior: National Park Service, 2007).
population who while not poor in community spirit, did not have the financial freedom as did the vacationers who frequented their home. The decommissioning of the Fort Moultrie military installation in 1947 combined with the Depression made it even harder on residents of the island who had lost a major source of income.\textsuperscript{27} As will be explained later in the conclusion, the island gradually transitioned into a community of full-time residents and the cost of living on the island multiplied many times fold.

One part of this military history that should be explained is the influx of military housing which was built the majority of the time in styles that were sympathetic to the already existing island cottages. Photographs of these structures are included, however, in Appendix A, the photographic survey from 1987. Junior officer’s quarters (Photograph 250A in Appendix A), bachelors’ quarters (Photograph 275A in Appendix A), and Senior Officer’s Quarters (Photograph 283A in Appendix A) were constructed and still exist on the island today. Because these structures have a completely different impetus behind their construction, they were not analyzed in this project. These houses were all sold by the government after the closure of the base in 1947 and almost all of them remain as private residences today. One exception being the Bachelor’s Quarters which have been renovated into luxury condominiums.

\textsuperscript{27} Wood, William J. 'Red', interview by Author. \textit{Interview about his history with Sullivan’s Island}. (March 7, 2010).
MAPPING ANALYSIS OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND SANBORN MAPS

The mapping of the residences in Moultrieville was essential to understanding the prevalence and development of the typologies on the island. Limiting the analysis to the neighborhood of Moultrieville kept the data collected manageable. The following methodology was used to compile Sanborn maps from 1893 to 1938.28

The 1893 map depicts all of the residences that were present in Moultrieville during that year. Structures identified as residences were marked with a “D” for “dwelling,” and colored with a transparent red overlay. Any changes to size, composition, shape, or location on the lot is shown in the 1912 map with a transparent blue overlay. New construction is also indicated with a blue overlay. This process continued using a green overlay for the 1924 map and a yellow overlay for the 1938 map. The columns in the data spreadsheet are color coordinated with the Sanborn maps.

For example, if a house exists in the 1893 Sanborn map and then shows additions in the 1912 map, these additions are shown with a blue overlay adjoining the original structure that would maintain its red overlay from 1893. If a structure that existed in the 1893 map was extant in 1912 but then had been lost before the creation of the 1924 map, the structure would be shown as red in 1893 and 1912 but then would not be shown at all in the 1924 map. This loss would then be noted in the accompanying table in the column entitled “General Changes in between 1912 & 1924.” The table that accompanies these maps is read from left to right by

28 The Sanborn Map Company, “Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970,” ProQuest, 1893, 1912, 1924, 1938, http://sanborn.umi.com (accessed 2009); The maps created for this analysis are located in Section VI: Maps. Originals of these Sanborn maps can be found in Appendix B.
the property location. The lot and its structure(s) can be tracked through the table or through examination of the maps in conjunction with the table. Analysis was eased through the use of the Excel Filter command which limits the rows displayed based on selected criteria. For example, the program allows the viewer to select for all of the 1893 structures of the “U”-shaped wrap porch to be displayed with all other properties hidden.
MAPS

The following section includes the analyzed and color coded copies of the 1893, 1912, 1924, and 1938 Sanborn Maps. Each map is shown in an overall form and then is followed by three close-up versions of the same map, allowing for better visibility of the Sanborn symbols on each structure.

The maps are then followed by a table that records the information found in the maps. The colors coordinate with the colors used on the maps. The numbers listed on the maps coordinate with the Property ID column numbers shown in the table. If the historic house existed and was photographed during the 1987 photographic survey, then the ID number from that survey and the current address are listed in the following two columns.

- The photographic survey from 1987 is available in Appendix A.
- Copies of the original Sanborn maps are available in Appendix B.
- The list of addresses of existing historic residences and those lost between 1987 and 2007 is available in Appendix C.
PROPERTY LINES AND ORIENTATION

The streets on the island were named in 1820 when the property was designated as available for lease if the interested individual could construct a dwelling house upon the land. \footnote{Miles, Suzannah Smith. Island of History: Sullivan’s Island from 1670 - 1860. Mount Pleasant, SC.: Historic Views Ltd., 1994; 4.} Since the wharf was located at the westernmost end of the island, the earliest residences and neighborhood of Moultrieville radiated out from the tip of the island closest to the Charleston peninsula. The island was split longitudinally by Middle Street until reaching Fort Moultrie where Atlantic Street to the north and Central Street to the south begin to run parallel to Middle Street. The property lots were generally rectangular in shape with the short sides fronting Middle Street and the adjoining beach or marsh. The houses were generally centered on the lots between the two long sides. For houses on the beach, the structure was usually located closest to the beach, whereas the residences that bordered the marsh generally lay centered within the lot or closest to the street.

What is considered the “front” or “rear” sides of these residential structures is subjective. Access to the beach-front residences generally led up to the house from the street after passing separate auxiliary structures that were kitchen houses or servants quarters. The majority of service structures were on the edge of the lot. The majority of houses had their primary porches facing the beach if located on a beach lot or toward street if located on an interior lot or a marsh lot. Interestingly, by 1912 and 1924, a pattern can be seen outside of the original boundaries of Moultrieville where the island widens and there are as many as four streets running parallel to Middle Street. The lots remain uniformly rectangular in shape but
their width decreases. The house orientation also becomes more uniform with the majority of the houses being located on the beach side of the property. This extends to houses that are two blocks inland.
PLAN AND SHAPE OF ISLAND COTTAGES

The Sanborn maps of 1893 show sixty-three structures marked with a “D” for “Dwelling.” Other structures depicted without a “D” represent either auxiliary structures such as kitchen houses, wells, or the occasional commercial or municipal building. While the Sanborn map plans are schematic, but they convey enough information to determine the form and layout of the structure. When interpreting the Sanborns, a solid line depicts a wall and a dashed line indicates a porch.

The most distinct feature of the beach cottage is the porch. For this analysis it is used to identify a structure’s type without assuming anything about the interior layout. For that reason, the typologies will be identified by their porch style and number of stories. Some features like the construction of rear flankers onto a “U”-shaped porch residence that are significant enough to garner their own set of typical plans and elevations.

Some of these types are no longer existing or were not accessible. For these studies, the author either approximated the plan based on experience, research, and clues in exterior construction such as foundation supports, fireplace chimneys, and window, door, and wall placement or included a roof plan until further access to the interior of such structures could be attained.
THE TYPOLOGIES
NO EXISTING PORCH COTTAGE TYPOLOGY

As most people who were vacationing on the island came to take full advantage of the sea breezes and cooler climate, it makes sense that the cottages without porches did not emerge as a lasting residential typology. These structures did exist, however, and are depicted in the Sanborn maps from 1893 to 1938. Because none of these porch-less main residences currently exist in their original form, photographs are scarce and research for this project has revealed only outbuildings that reflect this design.

One historic photograph of a guest quarters exists in the archives collection at Historic Charleston Foundation which is believed to have been photographed in February of 1962. This structure was a rectangular structure with a gable roof running the length of the building and a central brick masonry chimney. Pent eaves in the Moravian style ran along two sides the structure over the first floor openings and the structure’s foundation was within a foot of grade.
Also, as with almost every structure on the island, the window openings were shuttered for protection.

Interestingly, the one remaining historic outbuilding that constitutes something larger than a shed also has these Moravian features. The small rectangular structure on the street side of the lot also has a pent eave over the entrance door. The screen porch that is attached to the structure appears to be a later addition.

At the time of the 1893 Sanborn Map, there were ten one-story structures with no existing porch. Two additional structures were two-story residences with no porches. Out of those thirteen structures, only two remained in their original state by the time the 1912 Sanborn map had been drawn. The remainder were either torn down, destroyed, or porches were added to them. Of those that were removed in some way, six of those structures were replaced by new residences that still did not have porches. Two additional structures of this typology were constructed where they did not exist before the 1912 Sanborn map. By 1924, the Sanborn maps show only eight remaining of this typology and by 1938 only five remain.

While these structures did hold a small percentage of the type of residences on the island during the period shown by the Sanborn maps, none of the original structures without porches exist in their original form and the “porch absent” form did not stand the test of time. The following sketches are based on the existing auxiliary building and the photograph from Historic Charleston Foundation’s collections. The actual structures may have differed from
this style, but at this time, they are the best representation of the “porch absent” structures that existed on the island in the period of historic significance from 1830 to 1930.
NO EXISTING PORCH - 2-STORY STRUCTURE

MAIN ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Gable roof
- Shuttered window openings
- Pent cave (Moravian style) over openings.
- Wood siding.
- Usually small in size and stature.
- Foundation is low to the ground.

ROOF PLAN

VARIATIONS

- Possible masonry fireplace on interior wall.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
Figure 7.3.6. Written on reverse: "Atkinson Guest House (Servants), Station 10" Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.

Figure 7.3.7. Photograph of extant no porch structure with pent eaves. Photo by Author.
FRONT PORCH TYPOLOGY

What’s more appealing than sitting on the beach and enjoying a cool breeze away from the heat and cramped quarters of Charleston’s downtown peninsula? Sitting on a porch near the beach out of the sun. The most basic and most prevalent design that allowed the Lowcountry’s wealthy to enjoy these amenities was a simple rectangular plan with a front porch.

The plan of a rectangular core structure with a porch extending the full length along the front of the residence was by far the most common vernacular cottage structure from 1893 to 1938. The structures vary in the number of stories, being either a true one-story, two-story, one-and-a-half story, or two-and-a-half story structure. The Sanborn maps do not designate between a full-story or half-story structure (with a few exceptions), so some educated assumptions must be made. Based on comparisons between the Sanborn maps and historic photographs, both structures that would be considered one-and-a-half stories (roof with dormers) and structures with two full stories are both labeled as having “2” stories in the
Sanborn maps. This makes it slightly difficult to determine the different quantities between those two types of structures, but it is then much easier to determine the quantity of structures that were only one story. The one-story structures with a front porch continuously outnumber the structures with two stories by a ratio of two-to-one. Ironically, as will be shown in the conclusion, this style is now under-represented in the extant historic structures that retain their historic integrity.

Based on existing historic structures and historic photographs, residences with a single front porch more often did not have dormers in their second half-story, but they were definitely present within this typology. The majority of the structures had a side gable roof with a porch roof extending off of it. In the majority of cases, the porch roof was a continuation off of the gable roof whereas in other instances the porch roof would extend off of the house under the eave of the gable roof. Other roof styles in the one-story, front porch typology include a hipped roof bungalow with or without dormers and a pyramidal roof with or without dormers. In some of the earliest photos from 1898 to 1912, small parapets extend on the sides of porch roofs as well, reflecting the parapets that exist on many downtown Charleston single homes. The parapets were gradually lost from this typology. Considering the differences in the residential layout of the downtown peninsula with residences in very close proximity and the island where lots tended to be much larger and more separated from their neighbors, the loss of these features is logical. Being an early style, residences that most resembled the front porch
structure with parapets would have had wood shingle roofs as depicted the typology sketch (Figure 7.3.10).

Where they exist at all, fireplaces within the structures almost always align their chimneys with the exterior side elevations, but occasionally they can be found extending from an interior central wall through the peak of the roof.
FRONT PORCH with PARAPETS - 1-STORY STRUCTURE

Figure 7.3.10. Front Porch Typology Main Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

MAIN ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.11. Front Porch Typology Side Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

SIDE ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.12. Front Porch Typology Roof Plan. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

ROOF PLAN

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Gable roof
- Shuttered window openings
- Early styles have parapets on one or both ends of the porch.
- Wood siding.
- Usually small in size and stature.
- Foundation is low to the ground.

VARIATIONS

- Possible masonry fireplace on interior wall.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- Masonry or concrete and post foundations.
Figure 7.3.13. Written on reverse: "Gibbes House of Sullivan's Island." Approximate photograph date of 1898 to 1912. 
*Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.*
Figure 7.3.14. Written on reverse: "Jack Parrott House, Back Beach, Station 9". Approximate photo date of February 1962. Courtesy of HCF Archives.

Figure 7.3.15. 1010 Osceola Avenue; (Preservation Consultants 2003)
FRONT PORCH - 1.5-STORY STRUCTURE

MAIN ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES
- Gable roof.
- Shuttered window and door openings.
- Wood siding.
- Usually small in size and stature.
- This sketch shows the elevation that has been added more recently to many of the S.I. beach cottages due to FEMA regulations. The residences would have previously been much lower.

ROOF PLAN

VARIATIONS
- Zero, two, or three dormers.
- Vertical, horizontal, “X”, or victorian balustrade.
- Possible masonry fireplace on interior or exterior wall.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- Masonry or concrete and wood post foundations.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.
Figure 7.3.19. 2667 I’On Avenue

Figure 7.3.20. 2678 Middle Street

Figure 7.3.21. 1104 Osceola Avenue
FRONT PORCH - 2-STORY STRUCTURE

MAIN ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Gable roof
- Shuttered window and door openings
- Early styles have parapets on one or both ends of the porch.
- Wood siding.
- Foundation is low to the ground.

ROOF PLAN

VARIATIONS

- Zero, one, two, or three dormers. (Most commonly zero or two.)
- Possible masonry fireplace on interior wall.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- Masonry or concrete and post foundations.
Figure 7.3.25. Written on reverse: “Holiday House, Sullivan’s Island, Sea-View”. Approximate photo date of 1898 to 1912. *Courtesy of Historic Charleston Archives.*
Figure 7.3.26. Address: 911 Middle Street, c. 1845; An example of a two story ‘front porch’ beach residence. (Gadsden Cultural Center 2004)
FRONT PORCH BUNGALOW - 1.5-STORY STRUCTURE

Figure 7.3.27. Front Porch Typology Main Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

MAIN ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.28. Front Porch Typology Side Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

SIDE ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.29. Front Porch Typology Roof Plan. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

ROOF PLAN

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Hipped bungalow roof.
- Shuttered window and door openings.
- Wood siding.
- Usually small in size and stature.

VARIATIONS

- Zero or one dormer.
- Vertical, horizontal, “X”, or Victorian balustrade.
- Possible masonry fireplace on interior wall.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- Masonry or concrete and wood post foundations.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.
Figure 7.3.30. Written on reverse: “G. Theo Wichmann, Sewart House, Station 3.” An example of the Front Porch typology in a bungalow style. *Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.*
DUAL PORCHES

Because of the way in which the main streets of Sullivan’s Island run parallel to the coast line and the narrowness of the island, many pieces of property are bound on one side by the ocean or marsh and on the other side by the street that leads traffic through the interior of the island. The main porch on any of the island’s residences often faces in the direction of the water. Some residences, however, were constructed so as to have equal viewsheds of both. These houses were constructed with full-length porches on two parallel sides of a rectangular core structure. While other types may have existed in lost structures, there are no other known roof compositions besides a side gable roof with porch roofs continuing off of either side. Both versions were constructed with and without dormers.

The two different versions of this typology are the one-story (or one-and-a-half story) structure with a one story porch and the two-story (or two-and-a-half story) structure with two-story dual porches. Between three and four of the one-story dual porch structures existed
in Moultrieville in between 1893 and 1938. Three of the two-story dual porch structures existed during this time period as well. In comparison to the 27 to 44 times that the front porch typology appears on any one Sanborn map, these dual porch structures are much less common.
DUAL PORCH COTTAGE TYPOLOGY - 2-STORY STRUCTURE

MAIN ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES
- Gable roof with porch roof extend off of parallel sides.
- Shuttered window and door openings on both floors.
- Wood siding.

ROOF PLAN

VARIATIONS
- Possible masonry fireplace on interior or exterior wall.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
Figure 7.3.36. 2430 Middle Street.

Figure 7.3.37. 847 Middle Street (No longer there.)
“L”-SHAPE Porches

In an expansion from the front porch plan, the “L”-shaped porch plan allows for porch access to the air and sun on two perpendicular sides of the structure. Residences with “L”-shaped porches had a full length porch along one long side of the residence and a second adjacent side. The porch on the short side would either extend to the end of the structure or terminate against an exterior wall of the structure.

In Moultrieville, the percentage of structures that were constructed in this typology was relatively small. Out of the eighty-seven examined properties that contained residential structures, only six to seven structures with “L” shaped porches existed at any one time. They were consistent in their numbers, however, during that time period by maintaining a consistent representation quantitatively. The cottages with this plan type were 50% one or 1½ stories with one story porches. The remaining 50% of the cottages were two story structures with two story porches. In roof composition, many of these structures reflected the same side...
gable roof that was utilized in many of the simple single front porch structures. Other roof styles included a hipped, bungalow style roof.
"L"-SHAPED WRAP PORCH - 1-STORY STRUCTURE

Figure 7.3.40. "L"-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

MAIN ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.41. "L"-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Side Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

SIDE ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Gable OR hipped roof
- Shuttered window and door openings
- Wood siding.
- Usually small in size and stature.

Figure 7.3.42. "L"-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Roof Plan. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

ROOF PLAN

VARIATIONS

- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- Also exists in 1.5-story variation.
- Vertical, horizontal, "X", or victorian balustrade.
- "Y" or "X" supported concrete and post foundation.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.
Figure 7.3.43. Written on reverse: “Miss Blanchard, Station 20, Back Road.” Located at 2002 Central Avenue. An example of an “L”-shaped wrap porch typology that incorporates unique examples of the pyramidal roof form that is much more prevalent in the “U”-shaped wrap porch typology. Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.

Figure 7.3.44. 924 Middle Street. An example of the “L”-shaped wrap porch typology in the bungalow style. (Preservation Consultants 1987)
Figure 7.3.45. 1112 Osceola Avenue.

Figure 7.3.46. Written on reverse: “Dr. Smith’s House, Sullivans Island.” This photograph from the Historic Charleston Foundation’s Archives shows a one-story residence with a one story “L”-shaped porch. The structure shows again the early parapets that were constructed on the ends of the porches as on a single house on the downtown peninsula. It can also be seen that the size of this early structure is of a more diminutive stature than the great majority of those that exist today. *Photo courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.*
“U”-SHAPED WRAP PORCH COTTAGE TYPOLOGY

The best surviving cottage typology in an unaltered format is the “U-shaped” porch. For that reason, it is this style of house that was selected for recordation through the Historic American Building Survey and the collection at the Library of Congress. The Nathaniel Barnwell house has been kept in a pristine state respecting both its history and environment. Both the interior and the exterior have had minimal alterations making it a prime example of a Sullivan’s Island beach cottage typology.

The “U”-shaped porch typology is split into two main groups, those with either a one or 1½ story structure with a one-story porch or those with a two-story structure and a two-story porch. The two-story structure is the larger and more elaborate of the two typologies with the surviving examples being some of the largest historic beach cottages remaining on the island.
While the one-and-a-half story structures are often very similar when it comes to the basic layout, there are three main variations on the theme. The first typology variation has a Dutch hipped gable roof with two or three dormers on a second half story. The lower portion of the roof which shelters the porch extends around the full circumference of the house with flankers with other forms of roofs attached to the structure. This variation is the most simplistic of the “U”-shaped wrap porch typology and consequently, the decorative features of the house are generally simple and modest. This is the typology that the Nathaniel Barnwell House best fits within.

The second variation of the “U”-shaped typology with 1 ½ stories consists of a main Dutch hipped gable roof with rear flankers with gable roofs. The rooflines on these rear flankers can run either parallel or perpendicular to the main gable roofline.

The third major variation from the basic one-and-a-half story “U”-shaped wrap porch typology concerns the inclusion of rear flankers as well. Where in the previous examples, the hipped roof continued to the end of the rear of the structure or rear flankers with gable rooflines, this variation has a main Dutch hipped roof form and rear square flankers with pyramidal roofs. This pyramidal roof motif appears in other structures as well, often in the roof forms of additions being made to the structure.
“U” - WRAP PORCH -- 1 & 1/2 STORIES/1-STORY PORCH

Figure 7.3.49. “U”-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Main Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

MAIN ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.50. “U”-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Side Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

SIDE ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.51. “U”-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Roof Plan. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

ROOF PLAN

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Dutch hipped gable roof
- “U”-shaped porch terminating on the short sides against an exterior wall or flanker.
- Shuttered Window and door openings along first floor porch
- Wood siding
- Zero, one, two, or three dormers on half story. (Two is the most common.)

VARIATIONS

- Possible masonry fireplace on exterior wall.
- Vertical, horizontal, “X”, or victorian balustrade.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- “Y” or “X” supported concrete and post foundation.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.
“U”-WRAP PORCH with GABLE ROOF FLANKERS
1 & 1/2 STORIES/1-STORY PORCH

MAIN ELEVATION

SIDES ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES
- Dutch hipped gable roof
- "U"-shaped porch terminating at rear flankers with gable or hipped roofs that run either parallel or perpendicular to the main roof gable.
- Shuttered Window and door openings along first floor porch
- Wood siding
- Zero, one, two, or three dormers on half story. (Two is the most common.)

VARIATIONS
- Possible masonry fireplace on exterior wall.
- Vertical, horizontal, “X”, or victorian balustrade.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- "Y" or "X", supported concrete and post foundation.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.
- Optional shed extension off of gable roof flanker.
"U"-WRAP PORCH with PYRAMIDAL FLANKERS
1 & 1/2 STORIES/1-STORY PORCH

MAIN ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.55. "U"-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Main Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Miller.

SIDE ELEVATION

Figure 7.3.56. "U"-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Side Elevation. Drawing by Amelia Miller.

Figure 7.3.57. "U"-Shaped Wrap Porch Typology Roof Plan. Drawing by Amelia Miller.

ROOF PLAN

PRIMARY FEATURES

- Dutch hipped gable roof
- "U"-shaped porch terminating at rear flankers with pyramidal roofs of variable pitches.
- Shuttered Window and door openings along first floor porch
- Wood siding
- Zero, one, two, or three dormers on half story. (Two is the most common.)

VARIATIONS

- Possible masonry fireplace on exterior wall.
- Vertical, horizontal, "X", or victorian balustrade.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- "Y" or "X" supported concrete and post foundation.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.

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Pictures of “U” -- 7.3..58/.59/.60
CIRCULAR PORCHES

Like the residences without porches, the circular porch form is also somewhat of a lost typology on Sullivan’s Island because of the tendency to gain interior space by expanding into the adjoining porches. With only 4 structures of this style existing in the 1893 Sanborn map, it was never prevalent. By 1912 only one of these structures was remaining in its original form. Additions were made to the other three structures that converted them into either residences with the “U”-shaped wrap porch form or to a structure with a front porch. The last remaining full-wrap porch style residence in Moultrieville was altered through a rear addition, converting the house to having a “U”-shaped wrap porch.

There are no clear historic images of this typology as it is difficult to find photographs of four sides of a structure. There is one in the 1987 historic resource photographic survey that could possibly be an example of this circular porch typology. The angle of the photograph makes it difficult to determine, however, if the structure might have been encompassed by just
an elongated “U”-shaped porch. The structure in this picture which is located at 2723 I’on Ave is located outside of the coverage offered by the Sanborn maps, so unfortunately there is no Sanborn layout to follow either.

All of the structures that were altered from their original circular wrap porch form have been lost except for the structure at 923 Middle Street which has been altered to appear as a “U”-shaped wrap porch form. The other circular porch styles represented in the 1893 Sanborn map include a one-story structure with a one-story porch and a two-story structure with a two-story porch extending fully around the structure. The following sketch is an approximation of what a two-story structure with a one-story porch may have looked like.
CIRCULAR WRAP PORCH - 2-STORY STRUCTURE / 1-STORY PORCH

MAIN ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

PRIMARY FEATURES
- Hipped roof (could have been gable, as well).
- Porch that encompasses the entire exterior of the structure.
- Shuttered window and door openings along all walls of first floor porch.
- Wood siding.

ROOF PLAN

VARIATIONS
- Vertical, horizontal, “X”, or victorian balustrade.
- Wood shingle, composite shingle, or standing seam metal roofing materials.
- “Y” or “X” supported concrete and post foundation.
- Later additions to the rear of the house, i.e. kitchen house or bathroom.
Figure 7.3.66. 2723 I’on Ave. While this structure is only has a “U”-shaped porch, the structure, was the closest visual example to a building that followed in plan the proportions that were shown in the Sanborn maps for a circular wrap porch form.
OTHER ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

As with typologies of any style of vernacular architecture, each historic residence was constructed with certain variations. For example, a structure might have a slightly different floor plan, larger or smaller dimensions, different decorative features, or changes in materials. All, however, stem from and retain features from the original design.

This section points out some of the different features that can be found within the Sullivan’s Island vernacular beach cottage typologies. These include the porch railings, roofing materials, windows, dormers, doors, and additions.

The Sanborn maps do not present information on any of these features except for roofing materials. The maps do provide statistics on the type of material and the relatively quick transition that occurred in their use between 1893 to 1938. As for the other features, historic photographs were examined even though some photographs were undated. Depending on whether or not the date of the photograph is known, this option can give the best first-hand knowledge of what features existed during the historic period of significance. The largest and earliest complete photograph collection that exists is the 1987 historic survey photographs.
**PORCH BALUSTRADES**

Outside of historic photographs, there is little information on the actual wood railing and balustrade designs used during the period from 1830 to 1930. In order to get some idea of what may have been the prominent style during that period, historic photographs and the 1987 photographic survey of the island were examined and the number of each type of railing tallied. The following chart depicts the percentages of each type during the 1987 photographic survey. While these would not exactly represent what would have been used on the island previously, they give a general idea of the prevalence of each.

Figure # shows the results of those findings with vertical posts and the “X” forms of balustrades representing the majority at thirty-six percent and thirty percent respectively.

The sketches on the following page depict the different variations of balustrade types. The photographs that follow date from 1830 to 1930 and exhibit different styles of railings and balustrades.

![Table 7.4.1. Porch Balustrade Designs from 1987 Photographic Survey](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Vertical Posts</td>
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<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Victorian Slats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>&quot;X&quot; Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Horizontal Rails</td>
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</table>


SULLIVAN’S ISLAND BALUSTER VARIATIONS

HORIZONTAL RAILS

Figure 7.4.1. Horizontal Rails. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

BASIC "X" FORM

Figure 7.4.2. Basic "X" Form. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

VARIATION OF "X" FORM WITH HORIZONTAL RAIL

Figure 7.4.3. Variation of "X" Form with Horizontal Rail. Drawing by Amelia Millar.

VARIATION OF "X" FORM WITH VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL RAILS

Figure 7.4.4. Variation of "X" Form with Vertical and Horizontal Rails. Drawing by Amelia Millar.
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND BALUSTER VARIATIONS

VARIATION OF "X" FORM WITH BOX

VERTICAL POST BALUSTERS

VICTORIAN SLAT BALUSTRADE

TURNED BALUSTERS
Figure 7.4.9: Historic Photograph of “X” with horizontal rail balustrade on one-story “L”-wrap porch form (cropped) with parapet.
Date: 1898 to 1912.
*Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.*

Figure 7.4.10: Historic Photograph of vertical post balustrade on two-story Front Porch form.
Date: 1898 to 1912.
*Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.*

Figure 7.4.11: Historic Photograph of “X” with horizontal rail balustrade on one-story Front Porch form with parapets.
Date: 1898 to 1912.
*Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.*
ROOFING MATERIALS

The Sanborn maps reveal a great deal of information about the house forms that were found in Moultrieville, and when analyzed together with the detailed markings on the maps, reveal information about the structures’ transformations. Additions are made, buildings are lost and rebuilt, but one of the most recorded trends outside of the building shape lies in the changes in roofing materials. Symbols in the corners of each section of a structure indicate the type of roofing material being used. In the Sullivan’s Island Sanborn maps, the codes for the roofing materials are as follows:

- “x” = wood shingle roofing
- “o” = standing seam metal roofing
- “•” = composite shingle roofing

In 1893, the island’s roofline was dominated by wood shingle roofed structures. As wood shingles have a life of about 30 years, a relatively swift change occurred over the following forty-three years when other roofing materials gain popularity on the island. The following graphs indicate the shift from ninety percent of the residences being sheathed with wood shingles to this being the roofing material for only sixty-one percent of residences in Moultrieville.

In comparison to today’s remaining historic structures, the shift away from the traditional wood shingle roofing material is incredibly obvious. Out of all of the remaining historic structures on the entire island, only one has maintained the tradition of having a wood
shingle roof. Undoubtedly, this roof is not original to the period of significance, but its implementation shows at least one individual’s appreciation for the original historic aesthetic of the island.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7.4.2. Roofing Materials 1893</th>
<th>Wood Shingles</th>
<th>Standing Seam Metal</th>
<th>Composite Shingles</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Table 7.4.3. Roofing Materials 1912</th>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Composite Shingles</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DORMERS

The Sanborn maps do not depict dormers. A judgment call has to be made when looking at the photographic surveys as to whether the dormers are original to the structure or if they were added at a later time outside of the historic period of significance. Historic dormers within the Sullivan’s Island vernacular are very thin unlike the wide newer out-of-scale additions. The 1987 photographic survey and historic photographs were used to analyze the design of the dormers and the types of residences on which they were perched.

Most of the beach cottages that had original dormers were “U”-shaped wrap porch designs. They accounted for twenty-one of the landmark or island resource properties that were included in the 1987 photographic survey. Fourteen properties of the Front Porch cottage typology had dormers. One structure of both the “L”-shape typology and the Dual Porch typology had dormers. The 1987 survey photographs were analyzed to create percentages for the 1830s to 1930s period. Twenty-nine percent of the dormered buildings were “U”-shaped porch cottage, and thirteen percent were of the Front Porch Typology. Most, importantly, though is the percentage of overall properties that had dormers. The 1987 photographic survey included two hundred and ninety-six vernacular beach cottage properties. Out of these properties, only twelve and a half percent of the residences had original dormers.

The following photographs show examples of the different styles of dormers that can be found on Sullivan’s Island beach cottages. For comparison, included after these are examples of dormers that were later additions.
ORIGINAL DORMERS

Figure 7.4.12. 2673 Atlantic Ave. The C Bissell Jenkins house has a “U”-shaped wrap porch with conical cupolas at the corners. Three original dormers exist with hipped roofs that mimic the jerkinhead gable roofline.

Figure 7.4.13. 2002 Middle Street. This house being one of the examples of a Victorian variation of a small front porch cottage form has original dormers as well as parapets at the ends of the porch roof.

Figure 7.4.14: 214 I’on Ave. The “U”-shaped wrap porch form above shows the smaller scale of original dormers.
LATER ADDITION DORMERS

Figure 7.4.16  2714 Atlantic Ave. This structure is no longer standing, but is an example of a later addition of a dormer.

Figure 7.4.17. 419 Station 23. This structure shows the larger scale of an later added dormer.

Figure 7.4.18. 2268 Jasper Blvd. This structure shows the larger scale double dormers that were a later addition to this front porch typology.
**DOORS & WINDOWS**

Many of the historic photographs from the period of significance depict the houses while their shutters are closed on their doors and windows. From the inspection of what are original windows and doors in the Nathaniel Barnwell House most windows appear to be six over six casement windows, with the exception of some dormer or loft windows which can be two over two. Many residences, like the Nathaniel Barnwell House, had glazed French doors that entered into their main living areas from the porches promoting better air flow throughout the structure.
HABS DOCUMENTATION OF 1023 MIDDLE STREET
THE NATHANIEL BARNWELL HOUSE

The Nathaniel Barnwell House is a prime example of the early 20th century vernacular beach cottages that were being constructed as vacation residences for the wealthy of Charleston and the surrounding Lowcountry. Its design is relatively unaltered from the typical “U”-shaped wrap porch typology. The rectangular one-and-a-half story structure is raised on a concrete and wood post foundation. The weight of the structures is spread onto the posts through the use of both “Y” and “X” shaped supports. The roof is a Dutch hipped roof sheathed in composite shingles with two small dormers on the porch side and a masonry chimney rising from the eastern end of the exterior wall. This roof shelters a large rectangular first story encompassed by a “U”-shaped warp porch which terminates against a small room at either end of the short sides of the porch. This rectangular core is split down the middle by a set of stairs that leads to the second story loft. Extending along the full rear of the structure are four smaller rooms aligned along the long side of the rectangular interior core. One of the rooms that the “U”-shaped porches terminates against is a bathroom. The room that is in that place on the opposite side of the house currently acts as a bedroom. It is on the exterior of this rear corner that the newer bathroom addition was made. This addition of this new bathroom was made in 1990 during repairs after Hurricane Hugo. The second story loft is split by a central stairwell with either side forming a bedroom. One dormer from each room opens onto the southern side of the roof and two small two over two windows open over the hipped roof on either end.
The simple aesthetics of the house, however, do not indicate an easily understandable, forthcoming history, however. The 1893 Sanborn maps show a main structure of the circular porch form with a two-story rectangular core and a two-story circular wrap porch. The structure in addition to three small auxiliary structures were all roofed in wood shingles. The 1912 map then shows changes to what appears to be the original structure. Two additions have been added to the rear corners of the structure converting portions of the circular porch to interior space. The porch also is now listed as having only one story as opposed to two. The auxiliary structures are no longer existing but the main house remains roofed in wood shingles. The structure is shown in the same form in the 1924 map, but is listed as “old.” Consistent with the date supplied in the NR forms, a new structure appears in the 1938 Sanborn map as a “U”-shaped wrap porch form with a standing seam metal roof. Oddly, however, in this map, the porch is shown as extending the full length of the two short sides of the core. Even more so unusual, the main core is marked as being one story, while the porch is shown as two. No other structures on the Sanborn maps are marked with this combination of stories. I believe that there is a possibility that the numbers for each may have been transposed. An auxiliary structure with a rectangular core and front porch also appears on the 1924 Sanborn map in the same location and form as the current guest house. According to the owner of the house, the current guest house used to be the cook’s residence. According to the owner, the structure, which is currently raised on stilts, was blown to the rear of the property in Hurricane Hugo and was replaced to its original location by placing it on stilts to FEMA code regulations.
Confusion comes into play when considering the supporting information about the history of the lot and the structure. If the structure shown on the lot is the current residence, rear corner additions to the interior space must have been made in order to attain the current floorplan. This would have entailed adding the bathroom on the rear western corner and changing the wall configuration to create the bedroom on the eastern rear corner. The bathroom that was added to that corner was constructed in 1990 during the renovations after Hurricane Hugo.

As for legal documents surrounding the ownership and construction of the house, in 1956 the structure and land are willed from Nathaniel B. Barnwell, the namesake of the house, to his son, Nathaniel L. Barnwell, a prominent lawyer in downtown Charleston. That document describes that property as:

“All that lot of land with the building thereon within the Township of Sullivan’s Island, known and designated as Lot No. 61, was shown on a plat of Richard C. Rhett Surveyor, dated September 12, 1926, and recorded in the R.M.C.O. for Charleston County, in Book N-34, at page 18.

Measuring and containing on the North line one hundred and twenty feet five inches; on the East line three hundred and forty feet; on the South line, one hundred and eight feet; and on the West line, three hundred and seventy-three feet five inches.

Butting and Bounding to the North on Middle Street; to the East by Lot No. 68, from which it is separated by a twelve foot (12 ft.) street; to the South by the present front beach; and to the West by Lot No. 60 on said plat.

Being the same property a leasehold interest in which was devised to the grantee herein by the will of Nathaniel B. Barnwell, said Will being admitted to probate on the 17th day of November, 1950, in the Probate Court of Charleston County.”

30 Deed of Lease from Town of Sullivan’s Island to Maier Triest, 11 December 1926 (filed 22 December 1926), Charleston, South Carolina, Deed Book N-34, page 18. Register Mesne Office.
The plat which was surveyed on September 15th, 1926 only indicated that an “old home site” in the location of the current house and a very small auxiliary structure (most likely a well or other small non-residential building) are present on the site, definitely negating the 1925 construction date and indicating a later one.

While the document supports the ownership of the property by Nathaniel B. Barnwell, the plat leads to other information that does not corroborate that the structure or lot was owned by Nathaniel Barnwell in 1926. The plat from 1926 is linked to a document indicating the lease of the property to Maier Triest on December 11, 1926 with the condition that, “if a habitable dwelling be not erected within twelve months from the date hereof, this License at the expiration of said period shall be Ipso Facto null and void, without further notice, acts or proceedings.” According to the owner of the house, the structure remained in the family’s ownership since its original construction by Nathaniel B. Barnwell.

My assumption from these findings is that the house is dated later than the assumed 1925 construction date and that the floorplan was altered sometime shortly after the latest Sanborn map was published.

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31 Ibid.
CONCLUSIONS

This thesis project determined the architectural typology of a Sullivan’s Island beach cottage as well as the variations that were present on the island between 1830 and 1930. Those typologies were then compared to the historic cottages that exist today. Measured drawings were prepared of one of the unaltered cottages for submittal to the Library of Congress to create a permanent record from this sea island outside of Charleston, South Carolina. There are currently no drawings or photographs of this regional district’s architecture in a national repository.

Through a thorough examination of the Sanborn maps, historic photographs, and other sources, the following typologies were determined as distinct and recognizable forms that define the Sullivan’s Island vernacular vacation beach cottage:

- The No Porch Attached Cottage Typology
- The Front Porch Cottage Typology
- The Dual Porch Cottage Typology
- The “L”-Shaped Wrap Porch Cottage Typology
- The “U”-Shaped Wrap Porch Cottage Typology
- The Circular Wrap Porch Cottage Typology

Of these typologies, two have been lost and are only recorded here through supposition and photographs that suggest what might have been. One of the extinct styles is the cottage without a porch which as a form now only exists as auxiliary structures. The transition away
from this variation does make sense, however, as the addition of porches added to the value and usability of the cottages. The circular wrap porch form also no longer appears on Sullivan’s Island today. The loss of this typology was mainly through additions to interior space that captured the square footage in the porch.

The 1893 Sanborn map, shows ninety-seven residences in the neighborhood of Moultrieville. The most prevalent style was the Front Porch typology. The next largest was the No Porch Attached typology, followed by the Dual Porch, the “U”-Shaped Wrap Porch, the “L”-Shaped Wrap Porch, and the Circular Wrap Porch.

![Pie Chart](image)

Table 9.1. Residential Typologies Moultrieville - 1893

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Porch Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Porch Attached</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front Porch</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;L&quot;-shaped Wrap Porch</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;U&quot;-Shaped Wrap Porch</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Porch</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circular Wrap Porch</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Early photographs from the Historic Charleston Foundation Archives revealed a lost stylistic feature, the parapet wall-ended porch, rarely found on the island today. Two photographs that were taken in between 1898 and 1912 show different residences, one of the Front Porch typology and one of the “L”-shaped Wrap Porch typology, with this parapet wall-
ended porch so reminiscent of the downtown single house. These one-story cottages are diminutive, almost small-scaled replicas of downtown buildings.

The proportions of the residential typologies significantly changed from 1893 to 1938. During this period of time, the Circular Wrap Porch form completely disappeared and the No Porch Attached form is only seen in five residences. The “L”-shaped Wrap Porch residences have increased slightly in numbers, where as the Dual porch has declined in use with only 7% of the residences.

![Table 9.2. Residential Typologies Moultrieville - 1938](image)

**What typologies are still represented today and in what percentages compared to 1938?**

To determine the list of historic structures in the 2007 Historic Resource Survey was analyzed. Any cottages that were lost between 2007 and 2010 or were associated with the military history of the island were disregarded in this analysis.
The above table shows the percentage of each historic typology that remains today. When comparing the data from the Sanborn maps, to today’s remaining historic cottages, it is important to consider how the environment and residential context of the island has changed. Most significantly, the island shifted from a vacation community where the population during the summertime quintupled the year round population to a residential community of around two thousand residents. The small year round population that existed from the 1830s well into the 1950s was poor and often served as servants or laborers to the wealthy families that lived on the island during the summer. Many of the descendants of these full-time residents still reside on the island today. The shift towards easier access to the island and more modern amenities gradually made it easier for a full time resident to settle on the island. With that, these new permanent residents brought money and the booming economy of the late 20th century brought a significant amount of new construction. Today, fifty-eight percent of the residences on the island are modern structures, almost all of them built on the location of a previous historic.
beach cottage.\textsuperscript{32} The new cottages rarely mimic the historic ambiance of the buildings they replaced. With this incoming wealth, the small typologies such as the Front Porch bungalow style were most susceptible to loss. This gradual erosion of historic fabric continues as residents build larger, more substantial year-round and second-home residences.

The cost to live on Sullivan’s Island is significant and residents ensure resale value and long term investment by building larger residences. According to Zillow.com, a real estate search engine, the average current list price for a house built before 1930 on the island is currently $1,233,000.\textsuperscript{33} Most homeowners with the ability to purchase a residence for that amount expect amenities and interiors that reflect the cost. Fortunately, a few cottages are still unchanged, either because they stayed with the original family or were purchased by people that respected the simple austerity. One of these examples is the Nathaniel Barnwell House at 1023 Middle Street, which was selected for the measured drawings for recordation.

Smallier architectural features had important design presence in these simple structures. The balustrades are typically built as a variation of the “X” form and have a slightly smaller percentage of usage on the island than the plain vertical posts. The “X” balustrade differs from what is found on the downtown peninsula, adding to its regional significance. While the vertical posts or turned baluster is extremely common on downtown piazzas, the “X” form, as well as the lesser utilized horizontal rails, are rarely if ever seen on a peninsula house, as it is a


\textsuperscript{33} Determined through a search of pre-1930 houses for recently sold or listed properties on Sullivan’s Island. The list prices were then averaged, finding the average house list price of $1,233,000. The lowest recent sale price for a piece of property was $577,000 for a c.1890 two bedroom/one bath residence located at 2308 Jasper Blvd. The most expensive recently sold property was the residence at 1023 Middle Street which sold for $2,300,000. The most expensive piece of property containing a historic residence for sale is located at 1026 Middle Street and is listed at $2,995,000. (Zillow.com 2006 - 2010)
rustic form. This “X” form should be recognized as a feature that is particular to the island and retained as much as possible.

The shift in roofing materials is dramatically different as the island in 1893, was significantly wood shingles at ninety percent of the houses in Moultrieville. The remaining ten percent of the structures had standing seam metal roofs, a more durable material. Composite shingles were introduced on the island on or before 1912, and soon dominated the skyline. Wood shingles as a primary roofing material decreased from 90% to 61%. With only one structure on the island still maintaining a wood shingle roof, this is truly a lost feature of all of the typologies.

The Nathaniel Barnwell House is a structure that with the exception of the modern composite roofing, a twenty-five square foot bathroom addition, and the breezeway connection to the kitchen house, looks very much as it did when it was originally constructed around 1925. Even though the owners do not have an interior easement, the interiors are pristine and the current owner intends to leave them unaltered. It is a hope that these plans will provide information to those who are curious about what the historic interior of their own Sullivan’s Island cottage might have looked like. They should also be compared to historic residences in other island vacation communities such as Nags Head or Ocracoke Island, North Carolina or Jekyll Island, Georgia. The drawings serve as a measured record of an authentic and pristine historic Sullivan’s Island beach cottage.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Wood, William J. 'Red', interview by Author. Interview about his history with Sullivan's Island. (March 7, 2010).